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THE NEWSPAPER FOR SITTINGBOURNE, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT



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January 13, 2010



DISABLED SAILOR TO MAKE RACE HISTORY

WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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ISSN 1753-123-3



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Picture: GORDON ALLISON



CATTLE SHRUG OFF COLD

Majestic highland cattle add unique character to the Oare Marshes nature reserve at Faversham.

Twelve hardy souls, belonging to the Kent Wildlife Trust, wander the internationally-important wetland site helping to control a wide range of vegetation. Those in contact with the herd describe them as wonderfully charismatic and intelligent while adaptable, tough and docile.

Willing to graze on vegetation that other cattle would avoid, they make perfect tenants for the demanding marshland habitat. The ancient Scottish breed are often seen wading through ice-cold, knee-high water to reach their chosen grazing site.

■ BY JILL HURST

A QUADRIPLAGIC sailor from Swale has announced her intention to take part in the 2011 Fastnet race.

Hilary Lister, of Dunkirk, is paralysed from the neck down but plans to compete in the famous, offshore yachting race using a groundbreaking sip and puff system.

The 37-year-old enjoyed a variety of sports as a child, but after being diagnosed with a degenerative muscle disease at just 15 years old, she began to lose the use of her body, and has had no voluntary control below the neck since 1999. After trying sailing in 2005, she says the sport transformed her life.

She said: "I'm so excited to be doing something that I enjoy so much. Sailing gives me a freedom I can't get anywhere else. I can go anywhere I want to on the water."

"There's a lot of training ahead. The sip and puff isn't like blowing up a balloon, it's just small sips and puffs. The main challenge will be lots of race training, including tactics, sea survival, navigation and weather."

Sip and puff technology enables the sailor to control the boat's helm, sails and autopilot by sipping or puffing into three pneumatic straws attached to pressure switches. An advanced system is being designed to enable Hilary to also control the reefing sails.

The yachtswoman used the technology when she became the first disabled person to sail solo around Britain in 2009. She now hopes to use the advanced version to navigate a larger class 40 yacht.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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2 Some beautiful snowy scenes taken across Folkestone and Hythe. **Search 'snow'**



3 More than 100 swimmers go for a Boxing Day dip in Dover harbour. **Search 'Boxing'**

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SPECIALIST: Dawn Hackett will feature Kent cheeses on her mobile market in Faversham

Cheese market coming to you

■ BY JILL HURST

CHEESE lovers will be able to sample the delights of Kent at a mobile market in Faversham.

The venture has been made possible by the Kent Cheese Consortium (KCC) and the ingenuity of cash-strapped dairy farmers in the county.

Chairman of the KCC Dawn Hackett will use a quirky Citroen van to tour Faversham and surrounding villages selling only British produce and featuring local cheeses.

She said: "Faversham is a town of food lovers and we believe they will be enthusiastic about what we are trying to do."

"The Kent cheese industry is evolving because dairy farmers are financially squeezed and need another way to earn a living. Diversifying into cheese has enabled them to turn milk into a valuable commodity."

"It's still a specialist industry, with only a few cheese makers in Kent, but the farmers are passionate about what they do."

The mobile market will feature Faversham's own Ashmore Kentish cheese. Made at Lamberhurst Farm by farmer Jane Bower, the cheddar-

like hard cheese is made from unpasteurised Holstein and Friesian cow's milk. It is stored on pine shelves for at least four months, until it reaches maturity.

The company also produces a hard goat's cheese and an Italian-type taleggio.

Another dairy farmer, Robin Betts, earned gold at the world cheese awards for his Winterdale Shaw strong cheddar in 2009 and said he was looking forward to the mobile cheese shop enabling the Faversham community to support local produce.

He said: "Winterdale Shaw is matured in caves for 10 months and it is a very special cheese. Like most Kent cheeses, it's handmade and takes months of hard work to perfect, so we are only able to sell it in a few specialist Faversham food outlets such as Macknades or Brogdale butchers."

"Not many people know about the Kent cheese industry, so the mobile cheese market is a very good idea."

To find out more about Kent cheese contact Dawn Hackett at the Kent Cheese Consortium on 01227 273711 or visit her at the Whitstable Cheese Box in Harbour Street.

The mobile market, which will visit Faversham Creek on Sunday mornings, will open when as soon as weather conditions permit.

Disabled sailor to take on epic race

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Project manager Toby May said the team was waiting to hear if race officials would allow the system.

He said: "The new boat will change what is possible under sail, and the rules of sailing will need to be re-examined."

Any surplus funds raised for the race will be donated to the Hilary's Dream Trust charity, which enables disabled or financially disadvantaged adults take part in a sailing experience.

The Fastnet race takes place every two years and covers 608 nautical miles. Starting at Cowes on the Isle of Wight, it rounds the Fastnet Rock off the southwest coast of Ireland finishing in Plymouth after passing south of the Isles of Scilly.

For more information or to support Hilary, call Paul Taroni on 07595 082525, email paul@hilarylister.com or visit www.hilarylister.com



Picture: HILARY'S DREAM TRUST

Man 'was taking knife to recycling centre'

A SITTINGBOURNE man who said he was taking a six-inch hunting knife to a recycling centre was spared a prison sentence.

Mark Dunster, of Laburnum Place, was found guilty of carrying the deadly weapon at Maidstone Crown Court on December 16 and appeared for sentencing at Sittingbourne Magistrate's Court on January 6.

The court heard how police became suspicious of Mr Dunster after being called to a fight on August 20 when the 24-year-old appeared to try to conceal an object in his shorts. He was searched and police arrested him when they found a hunting knife.

Mr Dunstan claimed he had taken the knife from a third party with the intention of disposing of it at a recycling centre in the town centre.

A spokesman for the probation service said they were convinced that unemployed Mr Dunstan was not involved in the fight.

Mr Dunstan was given an 18-month suspended sentence and ordered to attend an alcohol treatment programme. He was also ordered to serve 150 hours of unpaid community work and £85 costs. The drugs were ordered to be destroyed.

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Debtors could face cuts in services, says council

EXCLUSIVE

BY JILL HURST

BAD debtors may be refused services as cash-strapped Swale council try to recover more than £11 million of unpaid bills and services.

As of January 2010, the council was owed a total of £11,323,328, including £8,989,754 in council tax due to be paid by the end of March and £1,670,126 in housing benefit overpayments dating back to 1996.

In addition, outstanding sundry debts totalling £672,448 include £313,488 for housing, £147,199 for property services, £44,298 for amenities and £77,234 for economic development and cultural services.

The news of the council's tougher stance on debt comes after it announced a £1.7m budget deficit.

Officials are looking at a variety of ways to collect the debt, including limiting services to residents who owe money, undertaking risk profiling of customers and employing external contractors to recover money. The council has recently convicted a string of housing benefit cheats and pledged to get stolen money back.

The district auditor suggested the council may have to write off some debt but officials are determined to collect as much as possible.

A council spokesman said that while it appreciated the need for the regular write-off of uncollectable debt, it would take all necessary action to recover what it is due.



DEFICIT: Council officials hope that recovering debt will help them to cut the £1.7 million budget shortfall

He added: "All debts will be subject to full recovery, collection and legal procedures."

"The council's approach is to minimise the debt held. We will take a corporate approach to the billing, recovery and collection of debt that is fair, consistent and accountable."

"The council reviews its debt regularly and sets aside a sum of money as a provision for bad debt. When a debt is written off it impacts on this provision."

"An improvement in debt collection will result in a reduction in the need to set aside a provi-

sion for bad debt and therefore result in monies being released back to services."

The council pledged that while it was preparing to get tough with debtors it would use fair and responsible debt-collecting practices.

Swale council's executive portfolio holder for performance and finance, learning and skills, Mike Cosgrove said: "The council has a legal obligation to collect and it does so as part of a sensible and measured process. We do take into account people's circumstances and our collection record is good and is improving".

Bin collections will resume after icy spell

HOMEOWNERS are being asked to leave their rubbish out for collection as the council attempt to catch up after the recent spell of bad weather.

All services were suspended because it was too unsafe for collection vehicles to make the journey. Refuse collectors will now work through the weekend to get the system back on track.

The council will take unlimited quantities of recyclables with the blue bins and asked people to use black sacks for excess recyclables.

The collection of brown bins, used for garden waste, will remain suspended until Monday, January 25.

Woman fights for life after motorway crash

A YOUNG woman suffered life-threatening injuries and had to be airlifted to hospital following a crash on the M2 motorway on Monday.

The female passenger, in her twenties, had to be cut out of the vehicle she was travelling in on January 11, and rushed to hospital in Ashford by helicopter.

Three fire crews, paramedics, police, highway staff and the air ambulance were at the scene on the London bound carriageway between junctions five and six at about 11.30am.

It took firefighters from Sittingbourne, Faversham and Whitstable almost an hour using hydraulic cutting equipment to free the woman. A police spokesman said it was likely the car had skidded on ice causing it to crash into the central reservation and then rebound onto the hard shoulder.

The male driver, also in his twenties, was not trapped and his injuries were not thought to be life threatening. He was taken to hospital by ambulance. The motorway was closed until 2.30pm while debris was cleared.

Fire crews called to series of car fires

A SPATE of car fires across the region kept emergency services busy at the weekend.

Crews went to Poplar View in Boughton at 3.20am on January 9 after a fire in a Peugeot 106 spread to another vehicle. Firefighters controlled both fires, which were started deliberately, within an hour.

At 2pm a Jeep caught fire in Second Avenue, Queenborough after the owner lost control of welding equipment. The fire spread to another car, a shed and fence. Crews took an hour to bring the blaze under control.

At 6pm crews went to a car fire near junction nine of the coast-bound A2 after an oil leak. The driver was not injured.

Police sniff out drugs

A WINDOW cleaner from Sittingbourne was convicted of possessing illegal drugs after police smelled cannabis at his home.

Officers called to Fred Rye's home in Tonge Road, on an unrelated matter on October 27 smelled the class C drug and a search revealed a biscuit tin containing cannabis and amphetamine.

Mr Rye, 25, was in the town's magistrates court on January 6 to plead guilty to two counts of possessing controlled substances with a street value of £30. He was ordered to pay £166 including costs.

Reporter flies in to help Age Concern feed island's elderly

YOURKENTTV reporter Julie Maddocks made a flying visit to help pensioners stranded on the Isle of Sheppey, organising a helicopter to deliver essential supplies.

The civic-minded reporter contacted Age Concern to ask how things were going on the snow-battered island because she was worried about how the charity would cope.

After being told they were running low on supplies and struggling to accommodate the elderly population in parts of Queenborough she sprung into action.

She said: "I was sitting at my desk last Friday and the weather was really bad."

It occurred to me that the charity might be struggling so I gave them a call and learned they were having real problems getting meals on wheels and other essential supplies on to the island.

"I rang AV8 Helicopters to ask if they would consider helping us to get supplies to the island and they said yes immediately. We flew in on



FLYING VISIT: Julie with Age Concern staff

Monday and landed at Abbots Laboratories, where we met the Age Concern team who were relieved and pleased to receive the supplies."

A spokesman for Age Concern said they were over the moon to receive the delivery.

He added: "We would like to extend our thanks to Julie who went over and above to help a vulnerable community. Her actions have made a real difference."

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Put your leftovers out for the birds

THE RSPB is appealing for people in Swale to leave left-over food for garden birds as winter conditions threaten to cause many to starve to death.

The organisation warned that as temperatures fall below freezing, birds will struggle to find the food they need to survive the winter.

A spokesman said: "During cold snaps birds are more likely to seek sanctuary in our gardens and people can make the difference between life and death by providing food like meal worms, fatballs, crushed peanuts, dried fruit and seeds and grains. They can also put out leftovers such as grated cheese, porridge oats, soft fruit, salted bacon, cooked rice and pasta and cooked potatoes."

Woman convicted of benefit fraud

A WOMAN who swindled tax payers out of more than £11,000 in benefits was convicted in Sittingbourne Magistrates Court.

Danielle Antoniou, of Chalkwell Road, Sittingbourne, claimed £4,949 in housing benefit, £580 in council tax benefit and £5,750 in income support over a period of nine months between February and November 2008.

The 23-year-old claimed the money as a single person when she was living with her husband, Mark Johnson. She pleaded guilty on January 4 and was given a 12-month community order of 60 hours of unpaid work and told to pay £50 costs.

A spokesman for Swale council said it would continue to convict people who are knowingly receiving benefits they are not entitled to.

Film buffs offered a treat at festival

A WINTER film programme has been announced for the Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne.

A Bunch of Amateurs, featuring Burt Reynolds and Imelda Staunton, will kick off the season on January 15. This will be followed by Glorious 39, featuring Bill Nighy and Julie Christie on February 19 and An Education, with Carey Mulligan and Nick Hornby will be screened on March 19.

The programme has been arranged as part of the Swale Film Festival.

Doors will open for all films at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets will be sold on the night and cost £4, with concessions rates at £3.50.

Appeal to cat lovers as charity runs out of room

■ BY JILL HURST

AN ANIMAL charity is so overwhelmed with homeless cats that it has appealed to animal lovers to come to the rescue.

Swale Cat's Protection League has used every space it has and is desperate to find short-term and long-term homes for kittens, young and elderly cats and those with medical conditions.

Charity volunteer Sue Duck said they had 22 cats and kittens to place. She said: "We are full to capacity and are in desperate need for people who want to either adopt a cat permanently or are willing to act as a foster career while we search for a permanent home."

Sue says that each cat has its own unique and often sad story. A prime example is Sooty, a male cat believed to be aged between two and four years old.

"He is a lovely black cat, but when we took

him for a check-up the vet found he had a grade 2 heart murmur", said Sue.

"Although he doesn't have any symptoms at present, he would need to go to someone who has a lot of experience with cats.

"A lot of these animals have had bad experiences, and as a result are very introvert or timid.

"Ben was abandoned after his owner was taken into hospital and later to sheltered accommodation. He was left alone for some time and it's clear he misses her very much.

"He is 13 years old now and really needs a safe and secure environment where he can live out his old age."

Also hoping for a new home are four semi-feral kittens found with their mother under a

bush in Bobbing a few weeks ago.

Charity workers have named them Libby, Molly, Oscar and Mabel, and believe their unruly ways could be tamed in the right environment.

People interested in taking on a rescue cat will be interviewed and receive a home visit and Sue issued a cautionary warning to potential owners: "Think about it seriously and realise that you will need to pay for food, cat litter and vet's costs.

"You can't just feed a cat and think that's it. They need love, play, a nice warm lap and plenty of environmental enrichment, such as scratch poles."

If you would like to adopt or foster a cat or become a volunteer worker, email cpeatson-sheppey@googlemail.com or telephone 0845 371 2755. The charity is self-funding and welcomes any donations.

Picture by GORDON ALLISON



TRANQUIL: While Swale commuters battled to get home from work, it was a peaceful scene on Elmley Marshes

POLICE KEEP YOU MOVING

THIS tranquil scene on Elmly Marsh belies the chaos experienced by many over the last week. Police bosses have praised officers for making "superhuman efforts" to keep Swale going as winter weather caused traffic chaos.

Three cars were involved in a collision on the A2 at Key Street, Sittingbourne at 3pm on Wednesday, January 6, with drivers and passengers suffering minor injuries. At 3.45pm police rescued a woman trapped in her Ford Ka after it slid on to its side on the A2 near the Norton crossroads at 3.45pm. The woman was unhurt, but the crash caused tailbacks to Teynham.

That evening, the Sheppey Crossing was closed by police at 6.20pm. The Kingsferry Bridge remained open.

Critters and snow ploughs worked through the night but many roads remained littered with abandoned cars.

Sittingbourne Police Inspector Evan Jones said police officers had made superhuman efforts to get to work.

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Weight loss pill 'could cause heart attacks'

■ BY JILL HURST

A WEIGHT loss pill could have put more than 1,000 people in Swale at risk of heart attacks and strokes, according to new research.

A total of 1,204 patients in the borough used the fat-busting drug Reductil last year which was singled out for concern by the medical watchdog the European Medicines Agency (EMA).

The tablet, prescribed to overweight or obese patients, contains an ingredient called sibutramine which may lead to an increased risk of heart problems, and the EMA has warned GPs to prescribe the drug with caution while it investigates its safety.

The danger signs emerged from a clinical study of 10,000 patients over six years.

Chair of the National Obesity Forum, Dr David Haslam said: "This is information we need to take seriously because we should not be prescribing it to the wrong people.

"Anything that lapses blood pressure control could have side-effects and anyone who has had a heart attack or a stroke should stop taking it."

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent assistant director of medicines management Alison Issott said: "Reductil should only be prescribed in line with NICE guidelines and to people who have made serious attempts to lose weight by dieting, exercise and other changes in their behaviour.

"Anyone prescribed Reductil should have regular checks on their weight loss, blood pressure and pulse.

"There is a risk of cardiac events and these should be balanced against the cardiac risks of obesity.

"National guidance says that patients with



existing cardiovascular diseases should not be prescribed Reductil. In all patients, treatment is not recommended for more than 12 months, and we would encourage people to make lifestyle changes as the fundamental approach to weight loss."

Sibutramine works by suppressing the appetite hormone serotonin, which tricks patients into feeling full so they eat less. The EMA fears it could also increase the risk of cardiovascular complications.

A spokesman for the EMA said they were currently assessing the implications of the study. He added: "Patients with coronary artery disease, congestive heart failure, arrhythmia and cerebrovascular disease should not be given these drugs."

A spokesman for Reductil manufacturer, Abbott Laboratories said: "Our ongoing evaluation of the study data does not change our medical assessment of sibutramine's risks and benefits when used appropriately in the approved patient population."



Sea cadets rewarded for determination

SHEPPEY sea cadets celebrated another successful year with a presentation evening attended by a range of dignitaries including Lieutenant Commander Peter Luxton and the Mayor of Queenborough.

Members of the unit, who earlier in the year were named south-east regional champions for the eighth year, were presented with trophies to mark their deter-

mination and hard work during 2009.

Youngsters who received an award included cadet of the year, Keiron Hughes, most promising cadet Cali Jeferies and best junior cadet, Shaun Lock.

Commanding officer Brian Moore said the evening was a great success and VIPs, parents and staff were treated to a club swinging display from the junior section.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

No let-up on hoax callers

SWALE police have warned they will continue to take a hard line with hoax callers after the latest figures revealed a significant drop in fake calls.

Between January and December 2009 police were called out to 157 hoax calls – a drop of 18 per cent from the previous year.

Swale Detective Chief Inspector Nick Gossett said he was pleased to see a drop in hoax calls, but warned there would be no let-up. He said: "I am pleased to see the number of hoax calls in the Swale area has fallen this year, but this is still 157 calls too many.

"Making a hoax call may seem a bit of harmless fun to the perpetrator, but by taking resources away from genuine emergencies they are endangering the lives of others."

Callers should only dial 999 if there is a threat to life or a crime in progress. Non-emergency calls should be directed to Sittingbourne Police on 01795 419182.

Pub music licence limited

A SITTINGBOURNE pub has been granted restricted permission to stage live music events following a decision on its planning application.

The Park Tavern, in Park Road, will now be allowed to host live events and discos until 10.30pm rather than the midnight and 1am finishes which had been originally requested.

The restrictions, outlined by Swale council's licensing committee on January 5, followed complaints from worried neighbours.

Other requirements include the restriction of live events to two per month, no ball games in the garden after 9pm, the closure of all doors and windows during performances and a notice informing revellers where to park.

Join community forum

MEMBERS of the Sittingbourne community are urged to have their say and attend a community discussion group.

The local engagement forum will offer people the chance to raise issues of concern with a number of agency representatives, including the police, fire service and the council.

It will take place at Fulston Manor School at 7pm on Tuesday, January 19. There will be an opportunity to raise informal questions between 6.30pm and 7pm.



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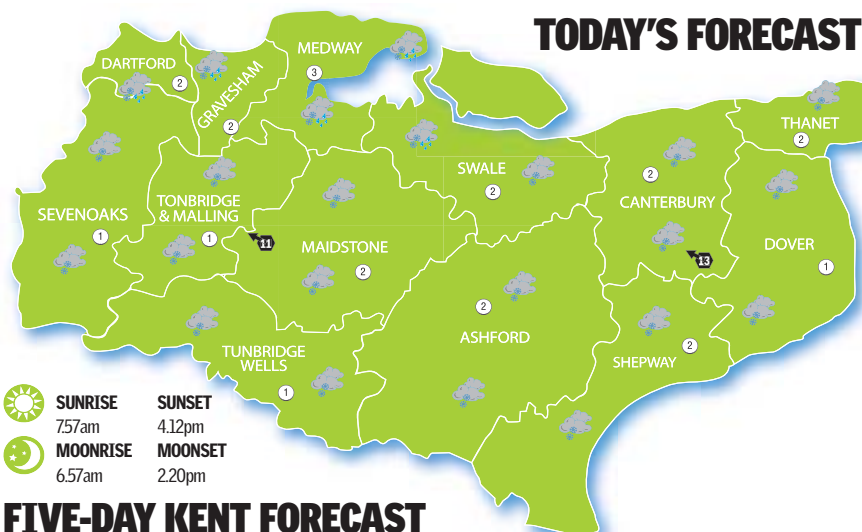
A&E and 999 are emergency services that should only be used when people are badly injured or show the symptoms of critical illness. Choosing well ensures that essential treatment is given, in the shortest possible time.



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WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	1:36pm	5.7m
	Sunday	2:08pm	5.8m
Dover	Saturday	11:46am	6.3m
	Sunday	12:19pm	6.3m
Dungeness	Saturday	11:41am	7.1m
	Sunday	12:15pm	7.2m
Ramsgate	Saturday	12:16pm	4.8m
	Sunday	12:49pm	4.8m
Sheerness	Saturday	1:26pm	5.5m
	Sunday	1:58pm	5.5m
Whitstable	Saturday	1:27pm	5.0m
	Sunday	1:58pm	5.1m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	0°C	Madrid	-1°C
Athens	15°C	New York	-4°C
Barcelona	7°C	Paris	1°C
Beijing	-6°C	Rome	8°C
Bombay	31°C	Sydney	26°C
Cape Town	24°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	1°C	Tokyo	5°C
Gibraltar	16°C	Vancouver	10°C
Hong Kong	14°C	Warsaw	-3°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	15°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	1°C	2°C	3°C	5°C	5°C	Gravesend	2°C	2°C	3°C	5°C	6°C
Canterbury	1°C	2°C	4°C	5°C	5°C	Maidstone	2°C	2°C	3°C	5°C	5°C
Chatham	3°C	3°C	4°C	6°C	5°C	Ramsgate	1°C	2°C	4°C	5°C	5°C
Dartford	2°C	2°C	3°C	5°C	6°C	Rochester	3°C	3°C	4°C	6°C	5°C
Dover	1°C	1°C	3°C	4°C	4°C	Sevenoaks	0°C	1°C	2°C	3°C	4°C
Faversham	3°C	3°C	4°C	6°C	5°C	Sittingbourne	3°C	3°C	4°C	6°C	5°C
Folkestone	1°C	1°C	3°C	4°C	4°C	Tonbridge	1°C	1°C	3°C	5°C	5°C
Gillingham	3°C	3°C	4°C	6°C	5°C	Tun Wells	1°C	1°C	3°C	5°C	5°C

SmartWater adds to unit's armoury in crime battle

SMARTWATER will soon be available across Swale and the forensic anti-theft tool is being hailed as one of the many successes of the borough's Community Safety Unit.

The product, which was successfully tested in Murston and Milton, works like a unique DNA-style marker code and can be detected using ultraviolet equipment.

It has already been used to snare burglars and has enabled owners to be reunited with stolen possessions. The Community Safety Unit was launched in September and has helped to crack down on anti-social activities such as dog fouling, littering and car crime.

Dividends

As well as the police and Swale council, the unit includes representatives from 16 public bodies including Kent Fire and Rescue, Kent County Council, the Probation Service and Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust.

Swale chief executive Abdool Kara said the borough council was proud to host the unit and its work was already paying dividends.

He said: "In just a few months we have seen the tremendously positive impact of the agencies working to make the borough a safer place for residents and visitors."

Members aim to tackle areas of concern before they have time to escalate.

Chief Inspector Tony Henley of Swale police said working as a multi-disciplinary team had helped solve issues quickly.

He said: "Setting up the unit has enabled us to respond better to the issues people tell us are important, such as dealing with antisocial behaviour."

you said You were concerned about drivers using mobile phones, speeding and drink/drug driving

we did Kent Police and Swale Borough Council work together in joint operations to reduce the number of motoring offences where you live. Drive safe, stay safe



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QUESTION & ANSWER

ANGUS FRASER



Q Why did you want to get involved with The Caldecott Foundation?

A My involvement began five years ago, after a casual conversation with a friend who has been a long-serving Caldecott trustee. Caldecott had just built a new school on their Smeeth site and were looking for school governors. I have always been interested in education, both personally and professionally – I was chairman for nearly seven years of the Alpha Plus education group in London – so I was delighted to help.

Q How has it changed in recent years?

A A great deal. In the mid-90s, an appeal was launched for major projects, including building a new school and improving the houses. This raised £8 million. The Duke of Edinburgh visited us three years ago to mark its successful conclusion. But it's not just about capital investment. We have also made great strides in developing our range of services and in enhancing the quality of integrated care we provide for some of Britain's most neglected and vulnerable children, so as to help them rebuild their lives.

Q You have extensive experience in business. How does this help in your work with the Caldecott Foundation?

A Most of our income is from local authority social services departments, who place children in our care. They expect us to manage our

affairs in a professional and businesslike way. We don't receive government funding or grants, so we need to work hard to provide the best care, therapy, education and fostering service we can within the resources available. We have to be competitive to earn the opportunity to do that. What's more, we need to set money aside to invest in facilities for the future, so we look after our money very carefully, and are very appreciative of the donations and legacies we receive from our supporters. These help pay for life-enriching extras for the children, such as holidays, outings and sports equipment.

Q Are the services the Foundation offers under more pressure at the moment? What are the main problems?

A With public finances under scrutiny, it is an economically difficult time for our local authority clients and we will need more than ever to demonstrate high quality and value for money. Running a care organisation like Caldecott is inevitably costly, not least because of our relatively high staff to child ratio.

Q The Foundation is nearly 100 years old, how do you see its future?

A We're looking forward to our centenary in 2011 but it is a sobering thought that child cruelty and neglect cases such as Baby P show there is as great a need as ever for the sort of care and protection we provide. Our role is to ensure that we continue to develop our services

to meet the needs of children and young people and to strive continuously to improve outcomes for those in our care.

Q Why do you think it has managed to maintain this success over all those years?

A Because we care, and because we're always thinking about how we can best help the children who are placed with us. Our services are constantly evolving and we now provide a complete package, from initial assessment through to residential care in one of our seven houses, therapy, schooling, fostering and finally, supporting them into the outside world.

Q How can people get involved to help the foundation?

A There are lots of ways to help the Caldecott Foundation by giving a little time or money. There are volunteering opportunities and a regular programme of events. We enjoy working with companies, and there are plenty of ways to make donations. Visit our website at www.thecaldecottfoundation.co.uk and click on 'How You Can Help'.

Q Who inspired you when you were younger? How did they affect your life?

A I was fortunate to work early on, in different enterprises for a succession of bosses whom I liked and admired and from whom I learned a great deal. The one common feature was that they were all extremely demanding!

Q & A

The new chair of trustees at The Caldecott Foundation at Smeeth near Ashford, which cares for up to 50 children who have suffered cruelty and neglect, talks to **ED HILL** about the future of the foundation



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BY MARIJKE COX

A GRIEVING father whose son was killed by a speeding driver has spoken of his heartache for a hard-hitting TV advert.

Michael Bollom, from Bearsted near Maidstone, hopes the candid account of his son James' death will bring home to viewers the harsh reality that speeding can kill.

He said: "This isn't just coming from an actor on TV - this is coming from a parent who lost his child."

In the advert, which will be shown on ITV Meridian, the 50-year-old recalls James's death in December, 2005.

The 16-year-old was killed a month short of his 17th birthday when the car he was travelling in lost control in the village of Watlington.

He died instantly after taking the full force of the crash.

The driver was prosecuted and jailed for dangerous driving.

The life-changing consequences of the crash took a further tragic twist when James's grief-stricken mother, Samantha, took her own life three months later.

Mr Bollom believes by opening up about the tragedy on television, people will take notice and think twice about their speed while on the road.

"I want to get the message across to some of these young drivers that speeding can have tragic consequences," he said.

"If I can prevent just one death, prevent one family from going through the pain we suffered, then it will be worthwhile."

"By me doing it rather than an actor it makes it all the more real for people and therefore will have more of an impact."

Mr Bollom, who is director of a manufacturing company in Sittingbourne, was

Devastated dad's TV plea to stop speeding drivers



MESSAGE: Michael Bollom hopes his moving account of his son's death will make drivers think and (right) with James at a wedding before the tragedy which claimed his life. He has also had a book about his experiences published

approached by Kent Police to talk about his grief as part of a campaign to clamp down on speeding.

The 30-second advert was filmed at Maidstone Studios by Southside Television and will be shown on ITV from this Friday to mid-February.

"It was daunting doing the advert and

brought up a lot of sad memories," said Mr Bollom. But it helps prevent people speeding then it's been worth it."

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beautridge paid tribute to Mr Bollom for taking part in the campaign.

"We are grateful to Michael for having the courage to do this and to help us get the

message through that speed kills," he said.

Director of Southside Television, Martin Smith, also praised him.

He said: "He was brave to do something like this as it obviously brought memories flooding back, but he is determined James should not have died in vain."

As part of his own personal plight, Mr Bollom has also written a book entitled *Losing James: A Father Cries Too*.

It gives a poignant account of his grief and how he dealt with the tragedy that tore his world apart. He hopes it will help other families cope with bereavement.

He said: "It's going very well - Waterstone's has taken it on in two of their branches in Maidstone. I've had emails from people saying it has helped them with their own grief."

Money from sales is donated to Holding On, Letting Go, which is part of Demelza House, a children's hospice based near Sittingbourne.

The charity aims to help families cope with bereavement.

Mr Bollom said: "We have already raised £2,000. Some of the people who have read my book have also given extra donations to the charity."

• To buy *Losing James: A Father Cries Too*, email mike@boundbiographies.com or go to Waterstone's in Maidstone.

'Designer dogs' dumped by cash-strapped owners

A RISE in demand for so-called 'designer breeds' has sparked fears even more dogs will be dumped in the coming weeks and months.

The Dogs Trust says cross-breeds like the labradoodle face an increased risk of being abandoned due to their newfound popularity as short-term fashion accessories rather than lifetime companions.

Staff at the charity's rehoming centre in Canterbury are currently caring for three such animals and are concerned they may receive more in the weeks and months to come.

Manager Lizzie Reffell said: "We're seeing more designer breeds coming through the kennel system and it's quite unusual."

"These dogs are new on the scene

and are quite expensive, which may be why they are becoming increasingly popular as fashion accessories."

"But still people do not seem able to cope with them or keep them long-term. Many don't seem to understand the dogs they buy will need to be looked after for the next ten years."

"We took in quite a few labradoodles last year but the problem has become more apparent now we have three cross-breeds at once. Fortunately because they are so popular they tend to be rehomed fairly quickly."

Three dogs currently being cared for by Dogs Trust Canterbury are Ruby the puggle (pug-beagle), Benson the boxador (boxer-labrador) and Charlie the spollie



GIVE A DOG A HOME: (l-r) Puggle Ruby, boxador Benson and spollie Charlie are being cared for by the Dogs Trust Canterbury

(springer spaniel-collie). Last year the BBC sparked a controversy when it dropped the annual Crufts dog show from its television schedule, citing concerns about the welfare of some of the pedigree canines on show.

However, Ms Reffell said there was no evidence to suggest cross-breeding caused any of the genetic defects uncovered by the broadcaster.

She added: "The dogs we've come across haven't had anything wrong

with them but as time goes on we will find out more and more about the effects of cross-breeding."

• Anyone interested in providing a home for one of the Dogs Trust's animals can call 01227 792505.

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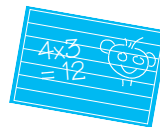
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BREAK TIME

Pupils offered tour of chemicals plant

A PHARMACEUTICAL company on the Isle of Sheppey is offering Swale science students the opportunity to visit its manufacturing plant.

Aesica Pharmaceuticals has operated from Queenborough since 2007 after it bought chemical and pharmaceutical facilities at Abbott's site where they now manufacture a wide variety of medical products including surgical anaesthetic.

Students who want to see science in action can tour the factory and learn about the manufacturing process, health and safety, and take part in an interactive question and answer session, as well as finding out how to make anaesthetics.

Students from as far away as East Sussex have taken part in the scheme.

An Aesica company spokesman said the firm wanted to continue to build a good relationship with schools throughout the region.

To find out more contact Mindy Pursey on mindy@m-spring.com

Deaf society award for school support

A SCHOOL in Sittingbourne has received an achievement award for its contribution to equal opportunities.

Sittingbourne Community College was recognised by Kent Deaf Children's Society for going the extra mile to support young students. Spokesman Mr Riddell said that the college's department for deaf students was an exemplar for others to follow.

Spreading message to keep youngsters safe

■ BY JILL HURST

A DEDICATED police officer is visiting schools across Swale in a campaign to prevent children from becoming the victim of crime.

WPC Ann Jones is already a familiar face to many schools in Sittingbourne, Faversham and Sheppey, where she has talked to youngsters about their safety, crime and its consequences.

As part of the Swale safer school partnerships, WPC Jones spends much of her time in the classroom and is passionate about getting the message to more schools in the borough.

She said: "The main purpose of my role is to reduce and disrupt youth crime and the fear of crime. I provide a link between the police in Swale and our 60 or so local primary and secondary schools.

"I also look at crime trends, and if there is a problem with criminal damage or anti-social behaviour in a particular area, I go into local schools to talk to children about the effects of such crime."

As part of the newly-established Swale community safety unit, the

officer tackles a range of subjects such as road safety, bullying, stranger danger, internet safety, crime and its consequences and the misuse of drugs and alcohol.

WPC Jones said she aimed to help young people understand their choices.

She added: "My main aim is to reduce crime and help prevent people from becoming victims of crime."

"I also want to give young people the information they need so they can make informed choices about how they live their lives."

Variety

She is well-placed for the job having worked with young people since being stationed at Swale police station 22 years ago in a variety of roles including a Safer Schools Officer.

"Every now and then someone will come up to me and say they remember when I came into their school 15 years ago. They even remember what I taught them."

"I love working with young people. If I can stop one person from becoming a victim of crime because of the information I provide then it's worth it."

To find out more about the scheme, contact WPC Jones on 01795 419391



PASSIONATE: WPC Ann Jones wants to help pupils understand the effects of crime

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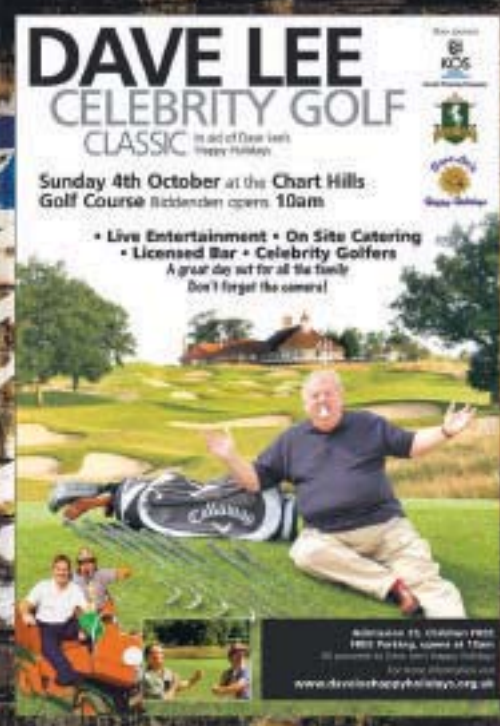
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Ben Inter a shot at big time with the 'Special One'



LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITY: Inter Milan boss Jose Mourinho (right) is waiting to see if Ben Greenhalgh (pictured left with Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo) can win a professional contract with the current Serie A champions

FOOTBALL fanatic Ben Greenhalgh could swap Orpington for Italy after reaching the finals of a television competition to find the sport's next star.

The 17-year-old Darrick Wood School pupil is one of 10 youngsters battling it out for a contract with Serie A champions Inter Milan – currently managed by former Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho.

Ben's attempts to impress the self-proclaimed 'Special One' form part of the new Sky1 show Football's Next Star, which kicked off last Sunday.

Throughout the course of the seven-part series the youngsters will work with the likes of Mourinho and former England star Jamie Redknapp to hone their skills and hopefully win a contract at the San Siro.

Contract

Filming for the show – which also saw Ben rub shoulders with Real Madrid megastar Cristiano Ronaldo – was completed last October, but Ben was keeping tight-lipped about how the competition ended.

He said: "I'm not allowed to give anything away, but it would certainly be life-changing to win the chance to play for Inter."

"As soon as I found out I would be going to Italy for a month I knew I had to take it seriously, because you don't receive this sort of opportunity every day. You've got to believe you're going to go all the way."

"When we were out there they were saying it

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

was between me and one other guy, but I just tried to relax and enjoy the experience rather than get nervous and worry about things."

Left-winger Ben earned his place in the finals after impressing the judges at one of several national roadshows, which he was entered into by his Kent youth team coach.

He eventually made the final 10 after impressing Inter youth coaches Paolo Migliavacci and Marco Monti, the latter of whom oversaw the youngsters' progress during their time in Italy and was responsible for deciding who would leave the competition from week to week.

The San Siro is a long way from Welling United's Park View Road, which was where Ben was originally planning to play his football this season.

He said: "There were a lot of problems because I had just signed a contract with Welling before I took part in the competition, but because I was 18 I was able to get out of it."

"In the end Welling were quite good about it, but it was quite stressful because it still hadn't been sorted out the night before the people on the show needed it to be."

"I joined Welling because the manager [Jamie Day] said a professional club would see me and sign me up, but I felt it was a better opportunity to take part in this competition and hopefully get snapped up by Inter."

• **Football's Next Star can be seen on Sunday at 8pm on Sky1.**

Chief Constable's future to be decided this week

KENTS Chief Constable Mike Fuller will find out this week if he is to be offered the top job at the Crown Prosecution Service.

Mr Fuller – who is Britain's first black police chief – has been selected by Attorney General Baroness Scotland as the preferred candidate to become Chief Inspector of the CPS.

Members of the Justice Committee in the House of Commons – including Bromley and Chislehurst MP Bob Neill – were due to discuss their decision yesterday, with an official announcement expected to be made soon after.

Should Mr Fuller land the job, it is rumoured his deputy, Adrian Leppard, will fill the Chief Constable position on a temporary basis until a permanent replacement is found.

Speaking to KOS Media shortly after his name was put forward last month, Mr Fuller stressed the deal was far from done.

He said: "I'm not gone yet, but I have been through the selection process and I've been

put forward as the preferred candidate, but the MPs might disagree."

"It is quite an unusual thing for the CPS to look outside the service for this role. I have

engaged with the CPS from the other side of the fence, so am able to see where improvements could be made from an operational angle."

Mr Fuller joined Kent Police as chief constable in January, 2004, having previously been with the Met since starting as a cadet in 1975.

Under his leadership the county has seen the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing Teams – 14 specialist units aimed at combating low-level crime – while also securing the use of a police helicopter as part of a joint working agreement with Essex.

Mr Fuller also holds honorary doctorates of law and is a non-practising barrister, having been called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in July, 2007.



DECISION TIME: Chief Constable Mike Fuller



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yourswaleblogger

Lifelong Kent supporter Dave Mairs berates the club's decision to play a home game in south London



SO Kent's cricketers are to play a 'home' match at The Oval, home of Surrey County Cricket Club.

A joke, a hopelessly mistimed April Fool's, or perhaps a necessary move in the wake of The St Lawrence Ground's planned redevelopment... these were the first thoughts to flash through many supporters' minds.

But no, it was none of these. The decision to schedule a Twenty20 clash between Kent Spitfires and Essex Eagles was taken in the cold light of day to – in the words of acting chief executive Jamie Clifford – “spread the Kent cricket message far and wide”.

And what precisely is the “Kent cricket message” that we're so keen to spread?

The county's failure to win the County Championship since 1978? A truly lamentable return of three trophies in 31 years?

Or perhaps, more likely, the abandonment of all trace of history and tradition at a club that has – admittedly perhaps too much – placed great stock by such values.

Whatever the answer, thankfully the initial marketing drivel has been replaced by a more honest explanation: we're doing it for the money.

The truth is certainly more palatable than any talk of the Kent cricket message (spare us!) but, forgetting the weight of the coffers, what's the real cost?

Even if The Oval venture proves a financial triumph, Kent appear to be behaving like some awe-struck kid brother.

“People should come and watch us at what is an iconic venue,” Mr Clifford has told us. “It's like having a final early in the season.”

The day our county cricket lost its way

No it isn't. It's like watching Kent v Essex at The Oval when we should be watching the fixture at Canterbury, Tunbridge Wells or Beckenham.

The only time Kent should be playing at The Oval is when they face Surrey in an away fixture – which, of course, is what it is.

Kent supporters invariably turn out in big numbers for those matches, ironically making them feel like home games.

That is the triumph for Kent and their fans, not the club's administration doffing the cap and begging to be allowed to party at the home of the supposed big boys.

As a Kent supporter, I find the whole thing humiliating. Doubtless the Essex supporters at The Oval on July 9 will be quick to point out quite how laughable Kent are making themselves look.

It's the very essence of team sport in this country – there are home ties and there are away ties.

In that respect, the quality of your ground or facilities doesn't matter – some of the

trickiest away challenges are at the grottiest places.

Not, you understand, that I'm saying The St Lawrence is grotty. It isn't – it's a lovely place to watch cricket – and it's Kent's home.

Can you imagine Lancashire playing home games at Headingley (Yorkshire's HQ), or Yorkshire hosting games at Old Trafford in Manchester?

Of course not – both clubs have enough respect for their traditions and, importantly, their supporters.

Perhaps at the core of this is the concept of what county cricket is all about.

With the club now overly reliant on overseas players or Kolpackers (don't ask – it's complicated), what makes us Kent?

It clearly isn't that fact that we have a team of cricketers who mostly hail from the county – because we don't – so the only credible answer is the fact that we play in Kent.

As the fans sing, “We are Kent”. And that is where, when we are competing at home, we should play our cricket.

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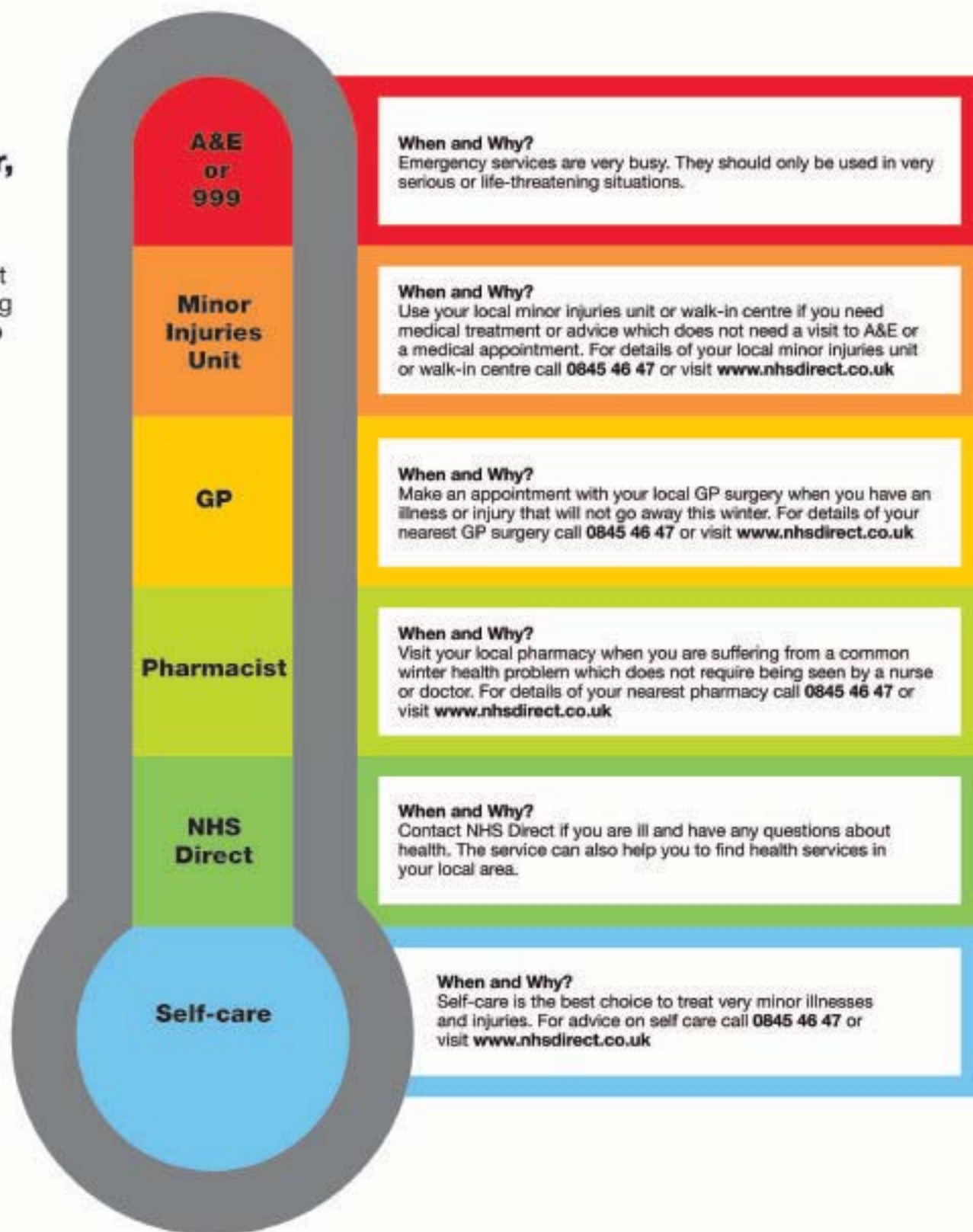
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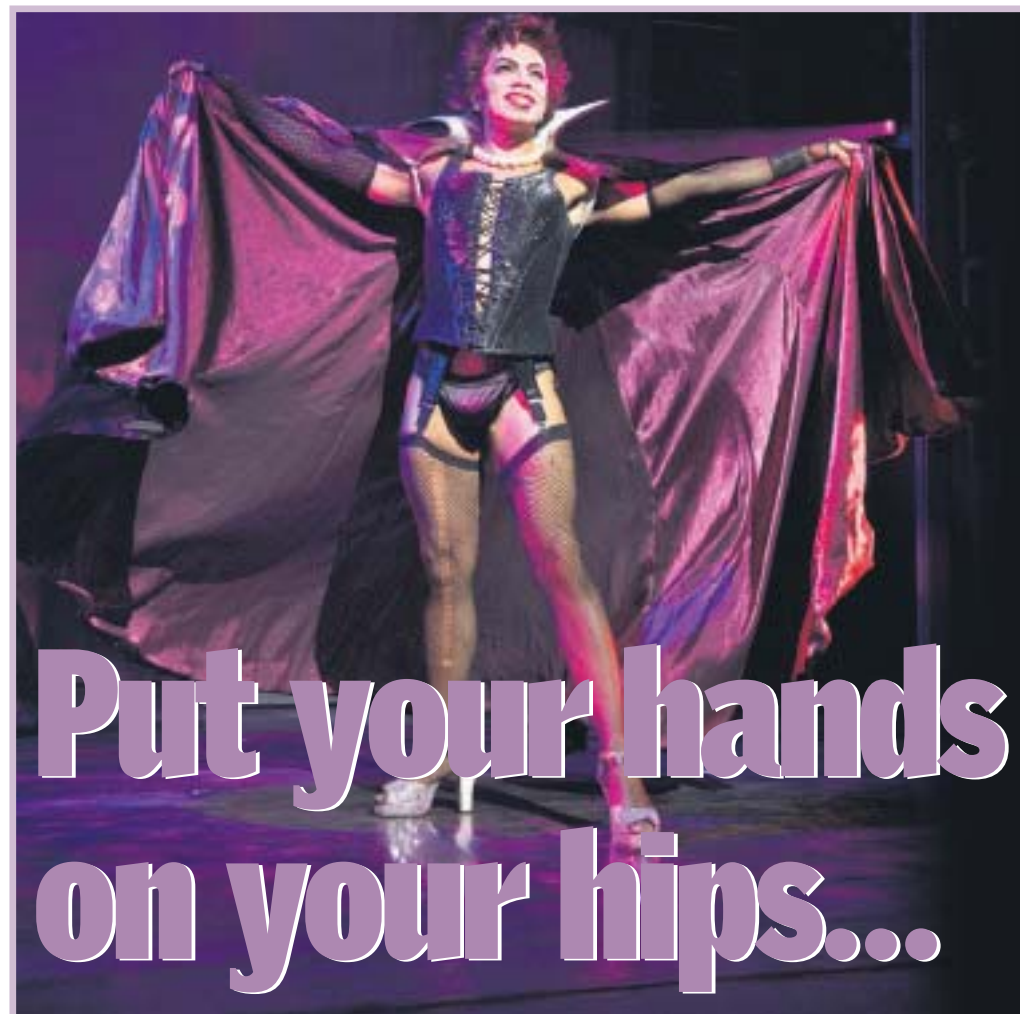
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PREPARE to party in the company of a sweet transvestite when The Rocky Horror Show rolls into town.

For more than 30 years, the sumptuous Frank 'n' Furter has been seducing his fellow characters and audiences all over the world. Created by Richard O'Brien, this rocking musical features unforgettable songs, mind-blowing characters and a famous dance routine which has been filling dance floors for decades.

The charismatic lead figure is played by David Bedella, an Olivier Award-winning actor whose previous credits include television drama Holby City, musicals Chess and Hedwig & the Angry Inch and the controversial Jerry Springer the Opera.

The Rocky Horror Show is a wild and inventive show that follows the exploits of an engaged couple, Brad and Janet, who find themselves stranded in the middle of nowhere when the car breaks down. They are forced to seek refuge at a nearby castle, but the whiter-than-white couple soon find themselves in a world they had never dreamed of until that fateful night.

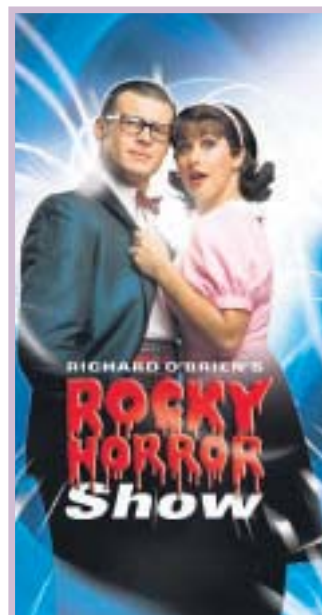
The castle is owned by mad scientist Frank 'n' Furter and from the moment they are greeted at the door by a hunchbacked butler, Brad and Janet fear that all is not as it should be. It turns out that they have dis-

turbed the scientist in the middle of a horrifying experiment – he believes he has discovered the secret of life.

Frank 'n' Furter is pleased with his creation, the blond and hunky Frank 'n' Furter, but he commits terrible acts in his pursuit of scientific advancement. Forced to stay the night at the castle, Brad and Janet are given separate bedrooms. But it soon appears that Frank 'n' Furter, a bisexual transvestite, has more than just laboratory experiments on his mind.

Featuring unforgettable songs such as the Time Warp, Sweet Transvestite and Dammit, Janet, this show is a great night out for seasoned fans and newcomers alike. Fancy dress is encouraged, so unleash your wild side and get ready for a night you will never forget.

Tickets are priced from £18, concessions available. Performances start at 8pm, Monday to Thursday, and 6pm and 9pm on Friday and Saturday. To book call the box office on 01322 220000 or visit the website at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.



ROCKY HORROR SHOW

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Saturday, January 30
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RICHARD HERRING

Saturday, January 16
Horsebridge Arts &
Community Centre, Whitstable



COMEDIAN Richard Herring reclaims a facial adornment for comedy in his acclaimed stand-up show, Hitler Moustache.

Determined to take back Charlie Chaplin's trademark feature from the Nazi dictator, Herring grew a toothbrush moustache himself. In this much-discussed show, Herring explores racism, politics and some of the more whimsical comedy for which he is held in such high regard. He uses his humour to launch a hilarious attack on racism, in a show which earned rave reviews at last year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Well-known for pushing the boundaries of intelligent comedy, without being afraid to attract controversy,



Herring has become a respected performer and writer. He rose to fame with comedy partner Stewart Lee in the 90s and went on to become a recognisable figure on stage, television and radio. His many credits

include acting as script editor for the phenomenally successful sketch show, Little Britain.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £7/£5. To book call the box office on 01227 281174.

STEVE TURNER

Tuesday, February 2
Central Theatre, Chatham



ACCLAIMED singer and concertina player Steve Turner visits Medway Folk Cellar next month.

Following a long period away from the folk scene, Turner made a triumphant return in 2004. Coming from a family of singers and concertina players – his grandfather was known to have performed in the 1890s – Turner began his career on the Manchester folk scene in the late 60s. He made two albums and toured Britain and Europe with Geordie band Canny Fettle during the 70s, but his star quality really came to the fore in 1979 when he won the Melody Maker Stars of the 80s competition in 1979.

During the next 12 years, he released four solo albums and toured internationally. From 1991 onwards Turner concentrated on building a violin retailing business and diversifying into classical. But his return six years ago has been a big success and he has since completed two more albums.

The concert starts at 8pm and support will be provided by Skinner's Rats. Tickets cost £8 or £7 for folk mailing list members and Friends of the Central Theatre. To book call 01634 338338 or visit www.the-centraltheatre.co.uk.



THE KING'S GOT DONKEY EARS!

Saturday, January 30
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury



A KING finds himself cursed with a highly unusual affliction in Theatre of Widdershins' wonderful family show.

The King's Got Donkey Ears! is a magical production that bring a mythical tale to life using a variety of captivating methods. When Good King Orlik sets out to take a walk in the woods, he expects to have a fun and relaxing time among the trees. But things turn out very differently and he returns with a big furry pair of donkey's ears.

Using puppetry, storytelling and original music, Theatre of

Widdershins tells this fabulous story in hugely entertaining style. The show runs for 50 minutes and is suitable for ages four and above, so even very young members of the family can enjoy a trip to the theatre.

The performance starts at 2pm and tickets cost £8. For even better value for money, take along a group of five people and buy a Family & Friends Ticket for £35. To book call the box office on 01227 769075 or visit the website at www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk. Family & Friends Tickets cannot be bought online.



SWALE LEISURE

Swale festival will reel you in with this film

AMERICAN star Burt Reynolds finds himself on stage with English novices in the Ealing-style comedy, A Bunch of Amateurs.

Derek Jacobi and Imelda Staunton also star in the film (cert 12A), the first to be screened this year by the Swale Festival Film Committee at the Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne. It starts at 7.30pm, Friday. To book call 01795 471140.

Folk fans won't want to miss Eddie Walker

POPULAR musician Eddie Walker will be performing for Faversham Folk Club tonight.

This respected performer can be seen at the Chimney Boy in Preston Street at 8pm. Tickets cost £7 for members and £8 for non-members. Next Wednesday folk fans are invited to a singers night. Admission costs £1. Visit www.favershamfolkclub.net or call 01795 534368.

There's still time to enjoy Aladdin panto

FAMILY fun is on offer at the Arden Theatre in Faversham with the popular pantomime, Aladdin.

Aladdin can be seen at the theatre at 7.15pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and also at 2pm on Saturday. Priced at £6/£4, tickets are available from Wyn's Florist in Preston Street, by calling 01795 531600 during office hours or online at www.ardentheatre.co.uk.

Tell us all about your upcoming events

WOULD you like to see your concert, production or event publicised on these pages?

Send full details – including dates, times, ticket prices and how to book – to jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk or by post to the address on page 2. Submissions should arrive at least two weeks before the preferred date of publication.

If possible, include a good photograph.

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SWALE SHOPPING

Indoor market perfect for winter shopping

ESCAPE the high street and discover some unique products at the Pantiles' indoor craft market.

Whether you are looking for gifts or ideas for your own home, the market has a wealth of interesting crafts on offer at the shopping area in Tunbridge Wells. The event runs at the Corn Exchange from 10am to 4pm on Saturday.

For more information about events at the Pantiles, visit www.thepantilesonline.co.uk or call 01892 515675.

Turning the pages of Snodland's history

USING beautiful photographs, local historian Dr Andrew Ashbee presents a fascinating history of Snodland.

In his new book, Snodland and District Through Time, Ashbee invites readers to take a journey through the decades. Find out more about life in the area throughout the 20th century and into the 21st century with this book, which is full of well-kept images and intriguing history. Snodland and District Through Time, by Amberley is priced at £12.99.

Dyson shop will suck you in at Bluewater

SPRING cleaning will be a breeze now that Dyson has opened its first 'pop up shop' at Bluewater.

The temporary shop space is open until Friday, January 22 and sells vacuum cleaners, handhelds and the new Dyson Air Multiplier fan. Shoppers can try out the devices, learn how the products work and speak to the experts about Dyson's range.

For more information visit www.bluewater.co.uk.

Hurry to get your sale bargains at the outlet

BUY top brands on a budget with the continuing sale at Ashford Designer Outlet.

At the time of writing, Bench men's T-shirts were reduced from £22 to just £8, while Toshiba is offering six months' worth of free cinema tickets with any portable DVD product. There are big savings to be found at Mamas & Papas, but hurry because that sale ends on Friday.

For full details of sales and offers at Ashford Designer Outlet, visit the website at www.ashforddesigneroutlet.com.

It's going to get chilly in your Waitrose store

EMBRACE the ice age at Waitrose as the supermarket prepares to relaunch its frozen food products.

From delicious meal ideas, such as Beef in Ale (£3.95), to handy sauces like Pesto (£3.75), the freezer aisle is being transformed into an essential part of the kitchen store cupboard. Knock up the Four Mushroom Risotto (£6.49) from frozen, or the perfect breakfast with Six Pains au Chocolat (£1.99). The new range will be launched on Monday, January 25.

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Week-long birthday party ends great year at Forum

BY SIMON ROBINSON

A WEEK-long live music party will be held at The Forum this month to mark the venue's 17th birthday.

The celebrations kick off on Saturday, January 23 when Spycatcher – featuring members of punk rockers Gallows – headline.

Support comes from The Painted Smiles, made up of Sikh and Unkle musicians, and Kent-based up-and-comers Feed the Rhino.

The Tunbridge Wells venue's anniversary offering also features indie rockers Dogs, who have toured with the likes of Paul Weller, The Enemy and Razorlight, with the London outfit set to perform on Saturday, January 30.

The line-up also features Allegro, Filthy Nights and Medway-based four-piece Needs Must, who recorded their debut video at The Command House, Chatham, at the weekend.

Monday night's entertainment comes by way of the Forum's ninth battle of the bands competition and Wednesday sees talented singer songwriter Ellie Goulding take to the stage.

A secret special guest plays on Tuesday.

Forum promoter Chris Pritchard said he was hoping to build on last year's success.

He said: "The Forum is Kent's longest running venue and we have had an incredible 2009. We are lucky to attract some of the biggest new and classic names in the popular music scene, such as White Lies, Graham Coxon, Ash and Mumford & Sons.

"We are also lucky enough to have one of the strongest selections of local music outside of London, including Tom Williams and The Boat, Klaus Says Buy The Record, Everything



Everything, Rachel's Got a Flamethrower and Joeyfat.

"Hopefully we can improve on what has been a tremendous year for The Forum."

For details visit www.twforum.co.uk

Saturday, January 23: Spycatcher, The Painted Smiles, Feed the Rhino

Monday, January 25: Battle of the Bands, The Antics, Black Hawks, The Separation

Wednesday, January 27: Ellie Goulding, Klaus Says Buy The Record, The Help Movement

Thursday, January 28: Secret Guests, Son of Kirk, Tom Williams

Friday, January 29: Heartbreak DJ set (Ali Renault), Doop Djs

Saturday, January 30: Dogs, Allegro, Needs Must, Filthy Nights

HIGHLIGHTS: Headline acts Spycatcher, above, and London-based indie-rockers Dogs will be at the Forum



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- 2 Gristlefridge – Unbreakable (from Whitstable)
- 3 Shelta – Beautiful Girl (from Bexley)
- 4 Ron Bowdery – This Is It Kelpie (from New Eltham)
- 5 The Phalanxes – The Cure (from Herne Bay)



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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

TAKE ME OUT ITV 1, 730pm, Saturday

THE TV dating show must be a hard thing to get right.

Let's face it, going out on the pull is a national pastime – it always has been and always will be – but there are very few shows that have really addressed the subject. It must be the TV equivalent of trying to nail down jelly.

Blind Date is the most obvious example, but despite dragging on for decades, that was hardly edgy or indeed relevant – especially as it was so obviously staged.

Then there was Singled Out on MTV and Chris Evans's ill-fated Boys and Girls, which sunk without trace in the early noughties.

Other than that, I'm on to even more obscure shows, and that's just weird for a subject that 99 per cent of us are interested in.

I mean, if you're not already in a relationship then you're probably thinking about getting in one – and setting up other people is a sport for some.

So fair play to ITV, who have taken a run at it in the form of Take Me Out.

With lad-in-chief Paddy McGuinness at the wheel we meet 30 single women who set about running the rule over several guys hoping to secure a date.

After he has been probed and verbally prodded by all concerned, the girls decide whether to let their interest slide and buzz out, or stay in the game.

Particularly cruel is the way that many drop out as soon as he says "Hello, my name is...", showing that when it comes to judging a book by its cover women can be just as bad as men.



PLAYING CUPID: Paddy McGuinness hosts ITV's newest dating programme Take Me Out

After the set amount of rounds our subject must choose which girl to take out from those who remain, adding a bit of tension to matters.

Credit to the guys who come forward, as watching the lights go out on your love life on national telly must be a bit embarrassing.

One bloke's humiliation was total when he ended up with nobody declaring an interest.

In true Blind Date-style we get an update on how the big dates went the following week.

It's hardly highbrow entertainment, but it's jovial enough and makes a change from the endless stream of Saturday night talent shows we have been bombarded with in recent months, even if it is, in truth, a bit of a meat market.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

YOUR mind, body and spirit are intimately connected. If you don't feel well, it may be because you're not emotionally fulfilled. Spending more time on pursuits that make you happy is essential. Steer clear of people whose religious or political beliefs are offensive to you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

A PERIOD of study is coming to a close and you're a little sad as a result. The prospect of finding a practical use for your knowledge is a little daunting. Job opportunities are few and far between. Don't beat yourself up for this turn of events. After all, it's beyond your control.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

You long for privacy, but work demands keep crashing into your personal life. Share your knowledge and know-how with others. That way, people won't have to run to you whenever there is an emergency. It's the only sensible course of action to take.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

ALL the experience in the world has not prepared you for the challenges ahead. You just have to trust your instincts when it comes to dealing with a troubled relative. Whatever the reason for this animosity, you've got to address it in a direct fashion at the start of the year.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

RECENTLY, you've been neglecting friends, choosing to focus on a lover or youngster's needs instead. Now you've got to rejoin your social circle. Of course, you may be met with mixed reviews. 2010 is a year for building bridges and strengthening ties.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 21)

A SOURCE of income will be cut off, forcing you to find another way to earn money. Unfortunately, the kind of work you enjoy will be elusive. You might have to take a job just for the sake of paying your bills. Try not to dwell on your disappointment. There is a silver lining.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

FRIENDS are impatient for you to join their ranks, but you're not ready yet. A romance, or promising creative project commands every ounce of your attention. Some will accuse you of being selfish for neglecting loved ones, but nobody realises how dependent they are on you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

SEXUAL hang ups are making you miserable. If you've had trouble maintaining a long-term relationship, think about getting some counselling. Adopting a healthier attitude to life and love is critical to your happiness. You can find the kind of love you've always wanted this year.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

A TENSE family situation comes to an end. Moving away from meddling relatives comes as a huge relief. Check out the chances of doing some voluntary work, taking a challenging job or opening your own business are all positive ideas. Reach for the stars.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

This is the time to put an end to an image that no longer serves your interests. You're tired of being the one everyone comes to for guidance. Pursuing your own star should be your first priority. If that means shaking off some overly dependent people, so be it.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

CAREER matters could come to a head in 2010. It may be necessary to decide between work and family. A once in a lifetime opportunity depends on your moving to a different location. Putting this much distance between you and your loved ones makes you nervous.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

AN intimate relationship needs to undergo some serious changes. The problem is, this person has taken all of your sacrifices for granted. You have to consider whether you want to stay committed to such a relationship. Set the tone for the coming year by putting your needs first.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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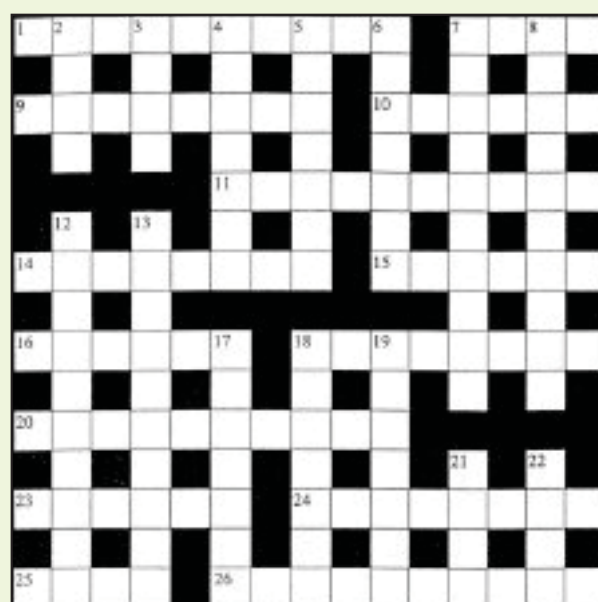
ACROSS

- 1 Stairs adorn part of ship (6-4)
7 Only one per person but several people can make one (4)
9 Webb waving goodbye to town in South Wales (4,4)
10 Find it painful to be an informer (6)
11 Single bit of scientific research? (10)
14 Aromatic river ebbs fast (8)
15 Novice, your first musician (6)
16 Purple plant (6)
18 Missile entered news broadcast (8)
20 Agree to keep in touch (10)
23 Mark, Greek character went round Thailand (6)
24 Something put on caught out of harmful habit (8)
25 Brother cultivated more than half the berries (4)
26 In all directions at each place in question (10)

DOWN

- 2 Part of ear used to hear cello better (4)
3 Go west then north for the dress (4)
4 Bar part performed with ease, say (7)
5 I, say, notice rudimentary organ (7)
6 Makes trellis camouflage flighty creature (7)
7 Great outcry when colourful racehorse rose (4,6)
8 Symptomatic? (10)
12 It flies the police about over the river (10)
13 Encourage unfashionable rogue to take right flag (5,5)
17 Locates variety that is in proportion (2,5)
18 Ordered bird in patterned fabric (7)
19 Boy with unknown time of fame in March (4,3)
21 Long to take the item with honour (4)
22 Number said to be in favour (4)

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QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Boxing match (10)
7 Wader (4)
9 Thaw (8)
10 Amend (6)
11 Feasting (10)
14 Plundered (8)
15 Clothing container (6)
16 Beset with bad luck (6)
18 Talkative person (8)
20 Very quietly (10)
23 Raiser (anag.) (6)
24 Hypocritical (3-5)
25 Constellation near Draco (4)
26 Nap (5,5)

DOWN

- 2 Undersized pig (4)
3 Zilch (4)
4 Distasteful lodgings (4-3)
5 Gathered corn left by reaper (7)
6 Per (7)
7 Request (10)
8 Details (3,3,4)
12 Clearness of the atmosphere (10)
13 Egyptian port (10)
17 Female side (7)
18 Bristle (anag.) (7)
19 Study of the earth (7)
21 West African country (4)
22 Writing-table (4)

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CRYPTIC SOLUTION No119

ACROSS: 1 Jaunting-car 9 Stanza 10 Ailment 12 Reroute 14 Dowager 15 Six thousand 16 Two 17 Mod 19 Rallying-cry 22 Twelfth 23 Necktie 24 Venison 25 Bleach 26 Fleet Street. DOWN: 2 Anthrax 3 Nonsuch 4 Ida 5 Grand Canyon 6 Allowed 7 Weight 8 Stereotyped 11 Presumptive 13 Equal chance 18 Duenna 19 Refusal 20 Nuclear 21 Cuticle 25 Bus.

QUICK SOLUTION No120

ACROSS: 1 Prizefighter 7 Ibis 9 Unfreeze 10 Revise 11 Banquet 14 Pillaged 15 Hatbox 16 Mixed 18 Bignonia 20 Zero 4 Flea-bag 5 Cleaned 6 Through 7 Lyra 26 Forty winks. DOWN: 2 Runt 3 Plimsimon 23 Sierra 24 Two-faced 25 Hatbox 16 Mixed 18 Bignonia 20

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PROPERTY NEWS

Slump increases choice for first-time buyers

FIRST-time buyers are reaping the benefit of the British property slump.

Properties in almost 40 per cent of areas of the UK are now within their price range, a study claimed.

The average first-time buyer property could now be bought by someone on average earnings in 39 per cent of local authority districts, according to the Halifax bank.

The situation is a marked improvement on 2007, when homes in only six per cent of areas could be bought by someone on average earnings.

Potential first-time buyers on average pay would need to have spent about 27 per cent of their disposable income on mortgage payments in November 2009, compared to the 50 per cent they would have had to spend in June 2007.

The improvement in affordability has come through a combination of lower interest rates and house price falls.

But many first-time buyers have been unable to take advantage of the situation, due to tighter lending criteria.

Figures from the Council of Mortgage Lenders show the average person buying their first home with a mortgage put down a deposit of 25 per cent of their property's value for most of 2009.

The average price of a property bought by a first-time buyer was £133,794 in 2009, 10 per cent less than in 2008.

Rents likely to rise as new instructions fall

THE Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) expects to see rent rises in the coming months.

In its residential lettings survey covering the third quarter of 2009, surveyors reported that the number of rental properties coming on to the market fell, for the first time since January 2008.

Optimism over rents has therefore increased for the first time since July 2008, with only 4 per cent of surveyors still reporting falling, rather than rising, rents.

In addition, 22 per cent of respondents expected rents to rise rather than fall in the next three months, as a net balance of 11 per cent of surveyors saw new instructions falling, rather than rising.

The report states: "This is in stark contrast to levels seen late last year when the housing market was still suffering from falling prices and many would-be sellers were turning to the lettings market when their houses failed to sell."



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Estate agents see mixed fortunes for coming year

■ BY NICK AMES

EXPERTS have been looking into their crystal balls to predict the property market's future over the next 12 months, with varying results.

While Hamptons International and Chesterton Humberts expect prices to rise by 3 to 5 per cent and 2 per cent respectively during the course of this year, their fellow estate agent Savills predicts falls of 6.6 per cent.

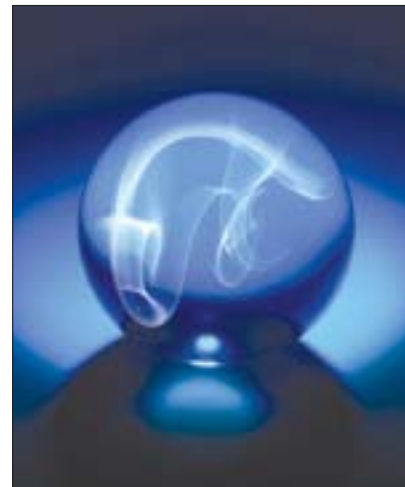
This time last year, the doom and gloom surrounding the property market were unremitting from all quarters, with even estate agents – usually accused of talking up the market – predicting a continuing slide.

However, according to most market analysts, they were proved wrong in many ways.

In most cases, first-time buyers remained shut out of the market by the banks for most of 2009, tumbling mortgage rates meant property ownership became much more affordable for those who already owned – helping keep repossessions below the high levels predicted.

Equally significant was the shortage of property.

Holding out for higher prices, homeowners



have been reluctant to put their houses up for sale, leaving buyers to fight amongst themselves. The inevitable result has been a rising market, where overseas purchasers, lured by the weak pound, have added to the competition.

The Bank of England is an important factor.

Most commentators expect the Bank rate to remain at its record low of 0.5 per cent for a good few months. The next movement must be upwards, even though it could be some years before it returns to the high of 5.75 per cent reached at the peak of the market in the second half of 2007.

Predicting the balance of supply and demand remains more difficult.

Also crucial is what will happen to demand, which could be set back by rising unemployment, the continuing squeeze on incomes and an end to the stamp duty holiday on homes priced from £125,000 to £175,000.

Hometrack, the property data company, reported a 2.2 per cent drop in new-buyer registrations last month – the first such fall since January 2009.

"Rich households could continue to put upward pressure on prices in localised markets in 2010," said Richard Donnell, its director of research.

"However, a sustainable recovery in the housing market needs a broader base of buyers."

Uncertainty ahead of this spring's general election could add to caution.

Whatever the overall figure, there seems little doubt that Kent, London and the rest of the south east will continue to outperform the rest of the country this year, and into 2011 as well.

Protect your home as mercury falls

THE winter months are now upon us and website Confused.com is offering homeowners advice on how homes can be kept warm while temperatures outside are frosty.

Freezing conditions can burst pipes, along with heavy gusts of wind which can damage buildings and roofs.

Snowfall can also spell travelling trouble for those needing to get from A to B. All elements can result in problems for people who are caught unaware of a frosty mother nature.

Darren Black, head of home insurance at Confused.com said: "Winter is the time when all homeowners want to have nice cosy homes for some respite from the cold."

"In order to create this warm, safe haven, essential checks need to be carried out. Prevention is certainly better than cure when it comes to an emergency in the home, so people need to clear out guttering, lag pipes and wrap up any outside taps."

Advice from Confused.com which will help minimise home disasters includes:

- Clear the guttering and drain pipes of any leaves and debris. This will reduce the risk of blockages occurring.
- Cut back trees and large hedges which could cause damage if they are blown down.



- Wrap up outside taps with material which will act as a jacket from the cold.
- Chimneys should be swept regularly.
- Make sure that your loft is insulated, preventing valuable heat from escaping
- If you are leaving the home for a while, do not switch the heating off. If you turn thermostats down in a frost, pipes will burst resulting in water damage

- Make sure your boiler is serviced on a regular basis. As winter puts strains on them, checks need to be done to ensure they can cope under the additional heating pressure.
- When the heating is switched on, carbon monoxide detectors are a good idea. These will alert you to any dangerous levels of the chemical within the home. In order to avoid such a leak, regular boiler checks are essential.

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MOTORS NEWS



Cult of 500 helps sales reach a five-year high

FIAT has shown the strength of its recovery in the UK by posting its best sales in five years, despite the recession.

The Italian brand, buoyed by more than 24,000 sales of its Fiat 500 retro cult car, registered 60,337 cars here last year, compared with 55,325 in 2008.

It also reported healthy sales for its Alfa Romeo and newly re-launched Abarth sporting brands and impressive rises in secondhand valuations: those for the Grande Punto supermini and Panda city car both rose around a quarter.



Mazda targets private sector to keep growth

KENT-based Mazda UK finished 2009 as the only major car marque to record eight consecutive years of market growth – its 2.4 per cent share topped its 2008 record.

The 48,000 sales were also ahead of those forecast, helped by 17,000 sales of the Mazda2 supermini – the most successful Mazda line ever in this country.

Mazda UK MD Jeremy Thomson said such a record in tough times was a tribute to its dealers and a strategy of concentrating on private sales.



Aveo joins Chevy style brigade with new look

CHEVROLET, having just opened order books for the aptly named Spark city car, has shown how it will apply similarly sharp styling to the next generation Aveo supermini.

This is the sporty teaser unveiled at the Detroit motor show; it is longer, wider and more spacious than the current production Aveo – due for the chop in 2011. Chevrolet Europe chief Wayne Brannon said: "The new Aveo will be completely in tune with the striking new Cruze and Spark."



TOP MARQUE: Volkswagen's new Polo recently scooped the European Car of the Year for 2010, beating off stiff competition from Toyota's innovative IQ and the Vauxhall Astra

Polo has perfect timing to match current mood

VOLKSWAGEN'S smart new Polo brought the European Car of the Year to the German marque for first time since the Golf Mk III's 1992 COTY win.

It also pipped strong challenges for the 2010 gong from the innovative Toyota IQ city car and powerful new Vauxhall Astra.

This fifth generation car – I'm discounting some dodgy facelifts sometimes touted as 'new' models – is classier, lighter and roomier to match the modern supermini trend; you can happily downsize and economise with this after giving up something larger.

Styling echoes the latest Golf and VW's reborn Scirocco and yet it rightly lacks the visual verve of the latest Ford Fiesta.

For it may be a small car – though looking about the same size as the original Golf – but the Polo has always been something of a premium buy and ought to be more reserved.

A seemingly rock solid interior is well-arranged and uses high quality soft touch plastics and well designed seats. Easy fold-flat rear seats allow for extra large cargoes and

ROAD TEST VW POLO

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

there is ample stowage around the car.

Any lingering qualms about chopping an older and bigger motor for this three or five-door baby are then finally banished by a tidy drive, plus a ride quality and refinement that really would not disgrace a car two sizes bigger.

Some of this is undone by the buzzy little 70PS (69bhp) three-cylinder petrol unit in our Polo 1.2-litre SE five-door test car (£11,995), but I don't dislike this engine; steady cruising is no problem and the crisp gearshift and sure-footed handling make it entertaining on quieter roads. And despite VW championing of the diesel cause generally, 83 per cent of new Polo sales are expected to be petrol.

Even with a five-speed gearbox, the test car can average around 50mpg and is a relatively low emitter (128g/km CO₂), though still incurring annual road tax of £120 against the £35 of its current 1.6-litre diesel equivalents and tax exemption for the forthcoming BlueMotion eco model.

The diesel can also average around 65mpg, but the petrol versus diesel choice is much harder than before, especially when you can get into a petrol Polo for as little as £9,435 – diesel entry price is an astonishing £12,605.



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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

4x4 ON THE CHEAP

SOARING fuel and tax costs, plus the economic downturn, have clobbered second-hand values for big thirsty 4x4s, but the redefined market has firmed up prices on smaller 'rough and tough' drives. Fact is some people who bought 4x4s originally, have become used to the extra grip and higher driving position even if they don't tend to seek out serious off-roading. So, forced to sell their bigger 4x4s, many may be looking to downsize to budget all-wheel-drive alternatives although these are not without their drawbacks – including less space.

FIAT PANDA 4x4



MAYBE not quite the typical 'butch' 4x4, but the Panda makes a surprisingly tough little customer for urban and rural users, thanks to under body protection and greater ride height. Despite Fiat's past reputation for poor reliability, the Panda has also proved itself as dependable as it is practical thanks to the boxy yet stylish five-door city car body. In sharp contradiction to the 'gas guzzling' image of 4x4s, the Fiat's 1.2-litre petrol engine should average more than 40mpg too.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

SUZUKI JIMNY



PRETTY it ain't, but the Jimny has long been pretty much the cheapest 'proper' off-roader on the UK market. If you really do need cut-price 4x4 clout in challenging conditions then this is the car. However, that ability brings penalties; the Jimny is rather bouncy, primitive and crude on-road so it is not a 4x4 to buy for image-conscious town dwellers, but the car is frugal, cheap to run and prices are sensible for a reliable and durable little 4x4.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

DAIHATSU TERIOS



THIS is really a tale of two cars. The original Terios was reasonably capable off-road, but on-road refinement was poor even if the car's reliability has proved to be bulletproof and it makes a good used buy. The new version, launched in 2006, has far better ability in both departments, but is probably still too young to be found in numbers on the used market. Power is exclusively petrol in both cases, but they are reasonably economical and low emission.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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Part-time bookkeeper required for family business and Charitable Foundation. We have an extensive property portfolio in South East England and France, and the Foundation also runs a large community Art Centre in Chatham.

The successful applicant will be a confident, self-motivated and experienced person able to produce forecasts as required, quarterly financial reports, draft year end accounts to enable Accountants to prepare year end Tax Returns, Annual Returns for Companies House and the Charity Commission, payroll, profit and loss, etc. A good working knowledge of Sage accounts software essential. Car driver preferred as you will be required to work in two offices. 24 hours pw over 4 days. Able to commence work February 2010.

Tel: 01634 819618 Fax: 01634 827405 or
e.mail carol@halpernpropertiesltd.com



NORTHFLEET SCHOOL FOR GIRLS Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ Tel: 0844 477 2525 Fax: 01474 335058

We are a highly successful and ambitious school. As part of the Building Schools for the Future and transforming learning initiative our school has undergone dramatic change. Our staff needs reflect that and to ensure that our students receive the best support we are currently seeking to employ:

EXAMINATIONS SECRETARY

£7,498 to £8,425 p.a. 20 hours per week

Term time plus support for examination results

Salary Scale Kent Scheme Grade 5 £16,440 to £18,471 full time equivalent

The post holder will support the smooth running of all aspects of all in school examinations and the accurate recording of pupil attainment for statutory and in-school assessments. Must be computer literate with a good knowledge of SIMS and Microsoft packages and an ability to communicate and co-operate effectively at all levels, with tact and diplomacy.

ACADEMIC COACH in MATHEMATICS

£13,872 to £15,586 p.a. 37 hours per week

Term time only (39 weeks per year) 8.15 a.m. start

Salary Scale Kent Scheme Grade 5 £16,440 to £18,471 full time equivalent

To work with the more able individuals and groups of students to motivate and ensure adequate challenge, in order that students meet their targets and that any barriers to learning are overcome. You will work as part of a domain focused curriculum team, and be educated to at least A Level standard in mathematics.

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT

£11,391 to £11,968 p.a. 31.25 hours per week

Term time only (39 weeks per year) 8.30 a.m. to 3.15 p.m.

Salary Scale Kent Scheme Grade 4 £15,984 to £16,793

Learning Support Assistant to work with students who have identified social and emotional behavioural needs. The ideal candidate will have experience of working with adolescents or within a school, possibly with ASD or similar diagnosis, and be able to provide evidence of good levels of literacy and numeracy.

All positions require a flexible approach to working, the ability to work as part of a team as well as under your own initiative and good communication skills at all levels are essential. Appointment will be subject to full enhanced CRB check.

Full job descriptions available on request. To apply please submit a full C.V. to Personnel Administrator at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ Tel: 0844 477 2525 or e.mail personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk

Closing date for applications : 31 January 2010

New Year, New Challenge!

We are seeking an

Administrative Assistant

ideally with sales, lettings, secretarial and accounting experience.

F/T or P/T to be discussed. Full ongoing training will be given.

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Office Assistant

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KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

You will be the first point of contact to all callers, visitors and Service Users at KCA's Thanet office in Margate. Confident in handling enquiries about the service whether by telephone, email, post or in person, you will ensure that enquiries are dealt with promptly, efficiently and courteously.

Offering support to the Administrator, you will have top MS Office skills and a 'can do' approach. You will be able to communicate with a wide cross-section of staff and external contacts in a highly professional manner. You need to be able to prioritise, work to tight deadlines and respond appropriately to referrals.

If you would like to discuss this post further, please contact Sue Hamilton, Service Manager KCA Thanet on 01843 298355 ex. 217 or Christine Gordon, Admin Lead on 01795 590795 ex. 2.

Closing date: Wednesday 20 January 2010.

Interview date: Wednesday 27 January 2010.

Application form and job description can be downloaded from
www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number 635.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No: 292824

www.kca.org.uk



Valence School

KEYWORKER

FULL TIME – Working Term Time Only

This post involves shift work and to have responsibility for and work to promote all aspects of personal development and individual progress for a group of Key Students.
Kent Scheme Band 5

£16,793 to £18,471 full time equivalent

STUDENT SUPPORT ASSISTANT

Full Time and Part Time hours available, Term Time Only.

This post involves shift work in supporting students with all their needs throughout their waking day, both within and outside the classroom.
Kent Scheme Band 3 (pro-rata)

£14,099 to £15,984 full time equivalent

WAKING NIGHT STUDENT SUPPORT ASSISTANT

Shifts are 10 p.m. until 8 a.m. Term Time Only.

This post involves working waking nights, and supporting students with their personal care needs over the night. There are a number of nights available.
Kent Scheme Band 3 (pro-rata)

£14,099 - £15,984 full time equivalent plus unsocial hours allowance

Valence School is a Kent County Council all age residential school for children and young people with physical disabilities, complex medical needs and associated learning and communication difficulties.

Valence School is committed to safeguarding and promoting every student's welfare. We expect all staff to share our commitment. The successful applicants will require an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Check.

For further information and an application form, please contact Staff Services Department.

Please note the closing date for applications is Friday 22nd January 2010 at 4pm.

Valence School, Westerham, Kent TN16 1QN

Tel:- 07887 727182 Fax: 01959-565046

e-mail: vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk

Account Manager

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Exciting developments within KOS Media Group has created the need to appoint a polished sales professional.

KOS Media Group has been one of the fastest growing independent regional media companies over the last seven years. Its newspapers have won more than ten national awards during that time, including UK Local Newspaper of the Year seven times. Our aim is to truly reflect the important events happening within our region via a combination of quality county newspapers, editorially-led local, midweek newspapers and the page turning editions as well as community websites and online local TV.

A new account manager is required to play a key role developing new business and maintaining existing relationships. The ideal candidate should be comfortable with all stages of account management and should

be proficient at sourcing leads, creating initial contact, delivering presentations, writing proposals, negotiating and closing.

The person we are seeking will be an energetic and enthusiastic individual with good interpersonal skills, strong relationship-building capability and have excellent verbal and written communication ability. They will need to demonstrate a proven sales track record, preferably from within media, will have a good understanding of the benefits of printed, online and live media and ideally knowledge of the Kent marketplace.

KOS Media offers a good basic salary, alongside performance and target-related bonus, plus five weeks annual holiday.

**If you believe you are a polished professional sales person looking for a challenging role, please submit your CV to Head of Department
christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk**



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WOMEN seeking men

MAKE IT LAST Slim female, 25, 5'10", long brown hair and blue eyes, caring and social, likes clubs, cinema, seeking a kind male, 30-45 for a relationship. Box 461558 **1**

MATCH OF THE DAY! Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5'12, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494 **1**

NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT... Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5'11, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105 **1**

LOOKIN 4 A GUY WHO'S EASY ON THE EYE! 25yr old female, 5'10, medium-curved build, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, WLTW tall, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644 **1**

BRING ME SUNSHINE Outgoing, fun female 28, seeks outgoing, fun guy to make me laugh and share the good times with. Box 882511 **1**

WILLING TO BE THE ONE Loving single mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5'13, slim and sexy, part-time earer, looking for reliable, loving male, Canterbury. Box 464326 **1**

SOUND GOOD? Social lady, 29, likes walks, swimming, vgsch, like to meet a man, 30-55 for lots of fun. Brighton. Box 463984 **1**

IS ANYONE OUT THERE? 31yr old easygoing, independent female, WLTW cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879351 **1**

FAIRYTALE ENDING! Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5'10, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957 **1**

HORSES FOR COURSES... Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 **1**

HAPPY DAYS! Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, tall with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTW intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 **1**

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME... Hello! I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5'13, shoulder length curly hair, enjoys eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039 **1**

SEALED WITH A KISS Petite lady, 38yr old, blonde, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wining and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 **1**

WHAT YOU SEE... Young looking 36 year old, 5'14, brown eyes, slim, one daughter, hard working, very sincere and caring, genuine, GSOH, seeks similar male 33-43. Rochester. Box 460307 **1**

STARRY NIGHTS Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights in/out looking for a caring man to share the best thing in life. Box 878379 **1**

I LIKE DRIVING IN MY CAR Honest, caring woman, 36, 5'15, slim, blue eyes, I'm caring, honest, have four children, enjoys drives, horse riding. Maidstone. Box 456159 **1**

LOVE TO LOVE YOU Lovely female, 36, 5'14, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking man for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102 **1**

HISTORIC MEETING? Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 **1**

SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5'14, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 **1**

CUTE AS CAN BE Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897963 **1**

DON'T LET ME DOWN Petite, black female, 38, 5'14, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684 **1**

EASY TO LOVE Lovely African female, 39, 5'14, likes football, socialising, cinema, and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male for a LTR. Ashford. Box 460968 **1**

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ADDING PHOTOS! Email: Send your photo and Member Number to: Louise@g8wave.co.uk

Mobile: Register your number with & send by SMS to 0786 203 777

Enter P2P as subject. MMS - network charges apply.

FAMILY ORIENTATED Eastbourne based woman, 39, 5'10, slim/medium build. I'm a single mum, and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034 **1**

AN AFRICAN DIAMOND 38yr old African girl, likes cooking, going out, walking, films and dancing, seeking a loving and caring boy for companionship and more. Box 446676 **1**

SHOW ME HEAVEN Black lady, 38yr old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area, WLTW a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608 **1**

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE Lovely, glossy brunette, 35yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTW a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 **1**

CAN'T SMILE WITHOUT YOU Professional female, 41, 5'11, brown hair/eyes, likes country boys and walks, looking for a gent, 42-55, to share a happy future with. Gillingham. Box 462538 **1**

TAKE A LITTLE TIME Social lady, 41, 5'3", gosh, likes family life, going out, cinema, walks, staying in, seeking a fun male for company. Sheerness. Box 461145 **1**

LOVE IS ALL AROUND Happy-go-lucky, bubbly Blonde, 42, blonde eyes, hard-working, love outings, looking for a nice, genuine guy for relationship. Bromley. Box 454517 **1**

NO REGRETS Bubbly, separated female, single mum, 40, slim build, love meeting new people and enjoying life, looking for an understanding man for happiness. Box 895246 **1**

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YOU'RE THE ONE THAT I WANT Fun-loving lady, 42, 5'11, brown hair, green eyes, enjoy being outdoors, horse riding, pubs, cinema and sharing a nice bottle of wine, WLTW you! Box 865096 **1**

TALL ORDER Curvy lady, 5'10, 43yrs old, blonde hair/green eyes. I live in Deal in Kent, I'm down-to-earth and like being out and about. Box 456020 **1**

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5'10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc, looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gosh for friendship/relationship. Box 450348 **1**

ANOTHER CHAPTER Hard working PA, 43, single mum, grey/blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoying life, seeks loyal, honest male to find love with. Sittingbourne. Box 461037 **1**

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU? Single mum, 42, from Ashford, 5'10, dark hair/eyes, likes wine bars, pubs, days out and keeping fit, looking for a caring and fun-loving gent, 5'10+. Box 461129 **1**

SWEET AS HONEY Petite, slim, honey-blond lady, 5'4" age 44, enjoys the seaside and horse-racing, looking for a dark-haired, genuine, honest and professional man, 25-50 in Brighton. Box 458465 **1**

HOW YOU DOING? Attractive, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459128 **1**

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS Laid-back single mum, very bubbly, outgoing and intelligent, 43, enjoys social life, drinks, meals, cinema, looking to start afresh with someone new, easygoing and life-loving. Box 446102 **1**

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY Bubbly female, 44, brunette, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955 **1**

ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULL Young-looking 46yr old female, 5'14, slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5'17, to share life with. Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box 461938 **1**

YOUNG AT HEART Young 46, attractive, fun-loving female, looking for someone fit, handsome, intelligent, full of fun, sexy, Worldly Man to share everything that life has to offer. Box 884113 **1**

A REAL DIAMOND African lady, 47, honest, loving and caring, enjoy most things in life, looking for a male, 50+, for a LTR. Canterbury. Box 460999 **1**

MY PRINCE? Dog lover, into sports, walks, motorbikes, GSOH, female, 47, pretty, long dark hair, looking for knight in shining armour! East Sussex area. Box 872961 **1**

ETERNALLY YOURS Easygoing woman, likes most things in life, country walks, films, cinema, comedy. I'm 46, 5'12, medium build, WLTW genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635 **1**

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME? Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366 **1**

HELP ME OPEN UP Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLTW male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585 **1**

LIKE MINDS Single female, 49, enjoy a varied social life going out, tennis, bowling, out for meals, cinema, travelling, looking to meet someone with similar interests. Eastbourne. Box 866286 **1**

NORMAL GAL Female, 48, divorced, happy, looking for the one, friendship, laughter, looking for smart, genuine, kind tall honest man, age under 50 is all I ask. Maidstone. Box 866380 **1**

STIMULATING COMPANY Bubbly, caring, single mum, 46, WLTW nice male, for good conversations, company, and maybe more. Box 396829 **1**

MAKE IT ENJOYABLE Pretty, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Rochester. Box 460686 **1**

ARE YOU LOVING AND CARING? Young 48 year old, loving, caring, very bubbly, 5'15, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes clubs, cinema, eating out, cosy nights, good company. Box 434089 **1**

JUST IMAGINE Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTW genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 **1**

THE RIGHT FIT Big lady (5'1), looking for decent, genuine man. I'm attractive, and very loving so go on, give me a try! I like cooking and family life. Box 862886 **1**

HIT THE JACKPOT Good-looking female, 46, blonde, slim, reliable and honest man, must be a moderate drinker, for companionship and romance. Box 878216 **1**

HERE AND NOW Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 449524 **1**

LOVELY BUBBLY Short 5'1yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with gosh to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311 **1**

MAKE A DATE Petite female, 52, blonde, blue eyes, seeks 46-61 year old single male for it. Interests include walking, photography and more. Brighton. Box 866322 **1**

LAUGHS AND TEARS Bubbly blonde woman, 52, 5'15, blue eyes. I'm a single mum, living and caring with the right man, likes socialising, cinema, walks. Sheerness. Box 464458 **1**

CARING & PROFESSIONAL Female 49, 5'14, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings. Can George call again with contact details? Box 417100 **1**

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COMPANIONSHIP LAUGHTER, HOPEFULLY MORE Curvy & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5'17, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WLTW similar loving male. Box 443642 **1**

DO YOU HAVE THE BRAINS & THE LOOKS? Professional, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863 **1**

PERFECT MATCH Mature, attractive lady, fair hair, brown eyes, in good shape, loves travel, theatre, sport, music, seeking the company of a cultured, funny, adventurous male. Maidstone. Box 462273 **1**

LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS! Smart petite lady, 56, 5'14, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795 **1**

MAKE A NEW FRIEND Fun-loving lady, 58, 5'14, dark hair, single mum! Likes countryside walks, reading, cooking and cosy nights in, seeks similar male. Folkestone. Box 460420 **1**

LOTS OF HUGS Positive woman, 60, independent but sociable, I'm 5'14, red hair/green eyes, slim build. Hythe, enjoys art and walks, seeking similar, intelligent man, lively, reliable. Box 464002 **1**

WALKS ALONG THE COAST Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622 **1**

MUSIC TO MY EARS Hi my name's Christine, 59, 5'9", slim build, wear glasses, likes live music, theatre, playing darts, looking for slim build, medium build, looking for slim build, for friendship, possible more. Box 419914 **1**

BE YOURSELF Outgoing lady, active, 60, tolerant, open-minded, loves life animals, and genuine people, seeks a sincere man for romance. Margate. Box 865760 **1**

BRIGHTENING UP Cuddly lady, 61, 5'15, blonde, likes swimming, country pubs, cinema and much more, WLTW tallish single man to hopefully brighten each others lives. Box 870214 **1**

ONLY LOVE Classy, intelligent, happy, slim, attractive, fit and active lady, 60, gosh, enjoys travel, gardening etc, looking for that special friend to share life with. Box 863791 **1**

SIMPLE PLEASURES Hi there, I'm a 61yr old lady, blonde hair/green eyes, medium build, loves dancing, walking by the sea and WLTW like minded gent. Box 459467 **1**

LOOKING FOR PRINCE CHARMING Pretty, bubbly girl in her 60's love romantic meals, gardens and the arts looking for caring gentlemen. East Sussex. Box 458169 **1**

LOVE ME DO Loving and caring lady, 63, 5'13, brown hair/eyes, likes most things in life, looking for a caring and considerate male for friendship, hopefully a LTR. Margate. Box 460082 **1**

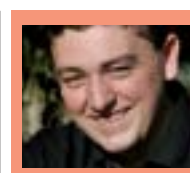
LET'S FALL IN LOVE Lovely female, 65, 5'12, enjoys walking, bird-watching, cinema, theatre and red wine, seeking a male companion to share life with. Box 444763 **1**

IN THE COUNTRY Young looking 72yr old female, slim, with blonde hair/blue eyes. I'd like to share my social life with like minded gent, likes country pubs. Box 457491 **1**

Women seeking women LET'S FIND OUT! Hi, I'm a fun-loving, kind, passionate lady, 44, 5'15, with a wicked sense of humour, looking for friendship and what ever evolves from there. Kent. Box 877446 **1**

HOPE YOU'RE OUT THERE? Sincere female, 49, likes football, animals, country pursuits, seeks feminine woman for friendship, maybe more. Gillingham. Box 456805 **1**

TABLE FOR 27 Homely type woman, 50, looking for a similar female. I'm 5'15, tall & peppy hair, I'm honest and trust worthy and looking for the same. Hastings. Box 455737 **1**



MEN seeking women

GUSS WHO? Male, 30, 5'10", in Ashford and looking for the right lady, 30-40, enjoys all the usual things in life: socialising, nights in/out, mountain biking. Box 856418 **1**

HAPPY CHAPPY Hi I'm a happy-go-lucky man, 33, a plumber, enjoys life and everything in it. I'm fit and active, and seeking the same in a woman. Box 452394 **1**

WHAT YOU SEE ID WHAT YOU GET Single dad, 34, 5'17, brown hair/dark eyes. Hoping to meet a nice woman. I'm laid back and wear my heart on my sleeve. Chatham. Box 464419 **1**

INTERESTED? Easygoing, genuine male, 38, 5'10, dark hair, medium build/cuddly, likes cinema, pubs, walks, anything really! Seeks likewise lady who likes a good chat. Chatham. Box 459876 **1**

BOTTLE OF WINE Hi there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5'10, medium build, brown hair, I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165 **1**

AN ATTRACTIVE OFFER Handsome, tall male, 38, 6'4", looking for a young lady to slowly re-discover the finer things in life. Box 454805 **1**

INTERESTED? Shy at first, I'm male, 37, and enjoy gardening, walks, seeking a woman, looks unimportant, 37-56 for loving relationship. Box 463897 **1**

INTERESTED? Genuine male, 39, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5'8", medium build, likes cooking, dining out, quiet holidays, seeking a lovely lady for good company. Ramsgate. Box 463493 **1**

MAKE ME LAUGH Hard working male, 39, kind, GSOH, intelligent, modest! Likes cooking, the countryside & nights out, seeks fun female for relationship. Maidstone. Box 464286 **1**

LOVE TO LAUGH Looking for a dove to earth green eyed lady, must have a sense of humour and laugh at life's little surprises! I'm 39 with GSOH...Hastings. Box 862208 **1**

TO EACH THEIR OWN Romantic male, 40, 6'11, slim build, gosh, 32 waist, brown hair/eyes, enjoys football, pool, DIY, socialising with friends, cinema, seeks female, 35-45, gosh, romantic. Sheerness. Box 463935 **1**

LIFE IS FOR LIVING Divorced male, 40, 5'10", brown hair, blue eyes, likes live music, looking for a fun woman to enjoy life with, to go out for fun. Eastbourne. Box 462094 **1**

SIDE BY SIDE Loving male, 39, loves dogs, blonde hair looking for a partner to help walk them and get some fresh air, enjoy dining out in. Hastings. Box 463717 **1**

SEEKING MY MATCH Single lady, 39, 6'11, dark hair, nice looking, loyal, honest, separated, looking for a loving, honest, fun-loving lady. Eastbourne. Box 458980 **1**

LOOKING FOR A BIRDIE! Hi there, I'm Chris, 38, in good shape, attractive, own place, hard working and honest, loves days out, golf, summer! Looking for loving companion. Box 459317 **1**

FULLY HOUSE TRAINED! Happy-go-lucky divorced single dad, 40, slim/medium build, 6'11, dark hair, love motorcycles, family time, cooking, WLTW female, prefer single mum, to enjoy life with. Polegate. Box 864778 **1**

JUST THE TWO OF US Male, 42, 5'10", tall medium/large muscular fit build, likes dating, bodybuilding, looking for female 30 to 45 for good times. Rochester. Box 862748 **1**

HOW ABOUT TODAY? Looking for love and relationship with nice, genuine woman. I'm male, 42, 5'10, brown hair/blue eyes, enjoys cycling, films, eating in and out. Kent. Box 463958 **1**

BROWSE and listen line: 0906 753 3093
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HELP required with service? 0871 220 9205
(Live assistance, 2pm-5.30pm, Mon to Fri | Email: louise@g8wave.co.uk | Calls cost 10p/min; contact your service provider for details)

PAINT THE TOWN Romantic male, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'8", caring and loving, likes cooking holidays, the countryside, bowling, cinema, seeking a similar lady 37-57. Ashford. Box 464118 **1**

MAKE A CONNECTION Easygoing male, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'6", 44, loving, likes cooking, holidays, music, countryside, cinema, seeking a lady 37-58 for a loving relationship. Ashford. Box 464218 **1**

BE THERE NOW Old romantic, loyal, honest, 43, 5'17, brown hair, blue eyes, likes most things, WLTW female to settle down with and find love. Box 443410 **1**

ROMANTIC TYPE Loyal gent, 45, caring, romantic with a GSOH, looking for similar female, 25-45, slim/medium. I'm 5'11, slim/medium build, brown hair/blue eyes. Single mums welcome. Hastings. Box 451334 **1**

GOOD COOK Single dad, confident, nice smile, 42, 5'10", nice build, single dad, own home, loves cooking, going out, sports. WLTW someone similar to me. Maidstone. Box 462077 **1**

FANCY A FILM? Nice down-to-earth gent, 45, 5'10, short hair, slim, likes swimming, reading, DVDs, chats, walks, anything really! Seeks likewise lady who likes a good chat. Chatham. Box 459876 **1**

GET HAPPY Easygoing guy with GSOH, 46, not bad looking, looking for someone to enjoy friendship, romance and maybe something more. Eastbourne. Box 461443 **1**

GOOD COMPANY Maidstone based guy, I'm 47, 5'10m blonde/blue eyes, and enjoy music, fishing, socialising etc, seeking similar woman for good company. Box 464447 **1**

MEET YOUR MATCH! Slim single dad, 47, works full time, looking for a slim/medium build lady, 25-50, children not a problem. Hobbies include, fishing, football, DIY and cooking. Dover. Box 462630 **1**

GAINING CONFIDENCE 47yr old chap, Brighton based, have my own company and I enjoy most things in life, seeks a fresh start with a genuine local lady. Box 463623 **1**

ROMANTIC GUY Easygoing man (47), 6'12, medium build, looking for loving woman with children if possible. I have lovely 10 year old daughter, likes walks, motorbikes, Gillingham. Box 861948 **1**

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Picture: ADY KERRY



LUCK: Rob Key hopes to keep injuries at bay for Kent to compete

Bowlers unit staying fit will be key for us, says Rob

CRICKET

KEEPING players fit for the whole summer is going to be integral if Kent are going to compete in the top tier of English cricket, according to skipper Rob Key.

Kent return to Division One of the County Championship this season with a settled, but small playing squad, which means injuries to key players could have a major impact.

The club were without arguably their best fast bowler in Robbie Joseph for the majority of last season, which put extra strain on the bowling attack. He has had successful shoulder surgery and is expected to be fit for the start of the season, while the addition of Australian Stuart Clark will help bolster the attack, together with another new seamer expected to sign shortly.

Keeping his bowling attack fit and firing is essential to Key, who expects his side to be challenging for honours this summer.

"On paper our top 11 is as good as any around, but obviously Durham are the stand-out side with people like Steve Harmison in their side," he said. "If we have Simon Cook, Amjad Khan, Joseph and Clark, that's a very good attack. You need a bit of luck to keep them fit and the problem is if they aren't fit, we have a couple of young guys coming in that have potential, but they are where they are because they still have a lot to learn, so ideally you want to go in

with your full strength attack. This year we can't be naive, history's told us that we can't always do that."

The club captain has already forged a good working relationship with new head coach Paul Farbrace and the pair are looking for the younger players to step up and cement their place in the side.

Key said: "It's going to take a lot of luck as it always does but the good thing is we have a couple of young guys coming through. Sam Northeast – there is going to be a lot of opportunities for him, Alex Blake as well, so we are starting to see that we are strengthening not only by signing players, but the young players coming through."

"The bowling side of the things is the only place where we need to add to the side really."



PARTICIPATION: Girls football is on the rise

Football remains popular across Kent

PARTICIPATION in football has increased across the board this season according to encouraging statistics released by the Kent County Football Association (KCFA).

Figures show there are more youth players, disabled players and referees involved in the game on a regular basis than last season. It means the sport remains the most popular in the county, with 46,000 people competing every week – an increase of more than five per cent.

Paul Dolan, KCFA development manager, outlined the body's role in promoting the grass roots game which they argue makes an important vital contribution towards building stronger communities, improving health, reducing crime and tackling obesity.

He said: "The KCFA service the needs of the football community by putting in place a new generation of modern footballing facilities, increasing and widening participation levels, raising standards within affiliated clubs and investing in the football workforce by providing quality education courses to administrators, coaches and referees."

The biggest rise was among young players. There are 175 more mini-soccer and youth football teams in Kent this season. It equates to 2,500 more players compared to last year, which is ahead of the KCFA's target to get more children involved. The increase includes 23 more youth female teams and 16 new disabled sides.

As well as the desire to attract more players to the sport, the Football Association has prioritised referees through its Respect programme. This year there are an extra 21 male and 5 female referees qualified to officiate at Kent matches. It takes the overall figure of registered referees in the county above 1,100.

The next priorities are to increase the number of mini-soccer and youth teams playing in FA Charter Standard Clubs and to gain two new FA Charter Standard Leagues.

Kent express interest in offering Clark a return deal

CRICKET

BY GLENN PEARSON



TALKS are already underway with seam bowler Stuart Clark about coming back next year after the Australian signed as Kent's overseas player for the first half of the summer.

The county offered the 34-year-old a short-term contract before Christmas, which was exclusively revealed on our website, which he got around to signing last week after getting the go-ahead from Cricket Australia.

The Australian right-arm seam bowler, who has 94 wickets from 24 Test matches for his country, has shrugged off a back injury that has kept him out of action for New South Wales of late and will be available to play for Kent as they prepare for a return to Division One of the County Championship.

The club's head coach, Paul Farbrace, also revealed to this newspaper that discussions have already begun with Clark about a return to St Lawrence, should he impress this summer.

Quality

"Stuart is hoping to play in the Indian Premier League in 2011 and we have had preliminary talks with him, that if things go well this summer, then there maybe some possibility of him coming back at some stage next year," he said. "He is a high quality player and a high quality bloke, and also the fact he is available from ball one of the summer because he is not playing in the IPL is a great thing for us."

While Clark, who was scheduled to join the county as their overseas player last summer before being called up to play for Australia, has put pen to paper on a deal, a spinner of international quality is the next player the club hope to tie down for the second half of the summer.

While Farbrace wouldn't be drawn on the identity of the club's overseas target, he did say that he is "something different to what we have got" and that the player is involved in a current international series.

The club are also keen to bolster their bowling ranks with two domestic seamers on Kent's radar, although Farbrace did say they would only sign one of them.

"We have an overseas player in place for the second half, what we are still waiting on is a seamer option," he said. "We are still looking at bringing in one more seamer if we possibly can and we are still talking to the same two people we were before Christmas."

With regulations stating that counties can name two overseas players in this summer's revamped Friends Provident Twenty20, Kent are contemplating the idea of extending Clark's deal to include the competition. That would mean he teams up with the 'mystery' new spinner for the second half of the season, although that is still yet to be decided.

• *James Tredwell has been included in a strong England Lions squad for next month's tour of the United Arab Emirates. The spinner, who is on duty with England in South Africa, will be involved in the first half of the trip. After four Twenty20 games against the UAE and Pakistan A, he will transfer to the England squad for the tour of Bangladesh.*

ACTION: Paul Farbrace revealed talks have begun with Stuart Clark (above) about a return to St Lawrence

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Hythe's bid for Abel was 'embarrassing' says boss

FOOTBALL

BY STEVE Tervet

JUSTIN Luchford said he was "embarrassed" by Hythe Town's seven-day approach for Damian Abel and insisted the striker is going nowhere.

The Faversham Town manager has already been busy re-shaping his squad since the turn of the year, bringing in John-Paul Collier and Sean Hetterley, while Nathan Eastwood has moved on to Herne Bay.

However, Luchford was left perplexed by the approach for Abel, who has been a regular member of the Town side leading the way in the hunt for the title and a place in the Ryman League.

He said: "I found it quite amusing, really - I don't understand why anyone would come in for my vice-captain. I felt embarrassed having to ask him if he wanted to go because I know he's very much committed to what we're doing at Faversham."

"I don't know if they're playing games - it's a strange time to be playing games when there aren't any games on. I don't understand their thinking unless they were prepared to offer him £250 per week to entice him away. As I've proved, money is not

everything - I haven't got the money Hythe Town have got, contrary to people's beliefs."

Luchford confirmed he has re-signed Hetterley from Hollands & Blair, Town's opponents this Saturday, after their Kent Senior Trophy quarter-final was put back a week due to the snowy weather.

Both Hetterley and Collier - who joined from Erith & Belvedere - are cup-tied for the game having already played in this season's competition.

Faversham's strongest challengers for the league title appear to be Herne Bay, who have closed the gap at the top to seven points with two games in hand under the management of Simon Halsey.

Luchford, though, had words of consolation for Halsey's predecessor, Barry Morgan, who parted company with the club following Bay's 3-0 defeat at Salters Lane on November 7 while reiterating his own reluctance to be seen as promotion hopefuls.

He said: "I think Barry was dealt a bad hand, he didn't do a lot wrong, and he probably would have got the same results as Simon has done. They lost twice to us under Barry and for whatever reason, it was deemed not good enough."

"They've had a good run of results and they're obviously up for it. I read that they're ready to pounce - well, good luck to them because the championship has never been our aim this season."



STAYING: Faversham's Damian Abel is going nowhere

FOOTBALL



CONGESTION: Gary Abbott's side face fixture pile-up

Brickies hope to clear their fixture backlog

SITTINGBOURNE travel to Burgess Hill Town on Saturday desperately hoping to start clearing some of their fixtures and make strides towards the play-offs.

Gary Abbott's side have played just 18 league fixtures all season and only one since December 12, with their small squad set to feel the strain over the coming weeks.

With two games scheduled every week between now and the end of February, the Brickies face a battle to avoid injuries and suspensions, with Abbott unable to dip into the transfer market.

No money

He said: "If I can get players in then I will - our squad is not big enough - but there really is no spare money available. I've got a bunch of honest boys here and they work very hard for me, which is all I can ask. We need a bit of experience - we've got Matt Bourne and Nick Reeves in defence and Tom Bradbrook up front, but we could do with an experienced midfielder."

"I've had Billy Manners and Colin Richmond in there and I can't knock them, but Billy's more of a defender really. We need players like him as he can play anywhere along the back four and anywhere in midfield, but we will get injuries and I could do with extra bodies."

Defender Matt Bourne will start Saturday's game in West Sussex after it was discovered he had received four yellow cards, not five, and therefore continues to tread the tightrope of suspension.

Victory could catapult the Brickies as high as seventh in Ryman South and Abbott, whose side have won three on the bounce, cannot wait to return to action.

He said: "We wanted to play the Whitstable game [on December 29] and the following week but all those games were called off. You get into the winning habit and it's hard to rediscover that when you go two weeks without a game."

LEAGUE TABLES

(Not including midweek games)

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Folkestone Invicta	21	15	5	1	+19	50
2 Worthing	22	14	1	7	+17	43
3 Godalming Town	20	12	3	5	+15	39
4 Walton & Hersham	21	11	4	6	+7	37
5 Croydon Athletic	19	10	6	3	+21	36
6 Fleet Town	20	10	3	7	+11	33
7 Ramsgate	20	9	5	6	+7	32
8 Merstham	21	9	5	7	-1	32
9 Chatham Town	22	9	3	10	-6	30
10 Sittingbourne	18	8	4	6	+7	28
11 Burgess Hill Town	19	8	4	7	+2	28
12 Corinthian-Casuals	21	8	3	10	-3	27
13 Whyteleafe	21	8	2	11	+2	26
14 Dulwich Hamlet	20	6	8	6	0	26
15 Leatherhead	18	7	3	8	+4	24
16 Horsham YMCA	22	5	9	8	-4	24
17 Metropolitan Police	20	5	7	8	+3	22
18 Walton Casuals	20	6	4	10	-7	22
19 Chipstead	22	5	5	12	-14	20
20 Whitstable Town	21	5	2	14	-27	17
21 Eastbourne Town	22	3	7	12	-23	16
22 Ashford Town	18	2	5	11	-30	11

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Faversham Town	15	11	2	2	+24	35
2 Herne Bay	13	9	1	3	+13	28
3 Erith & Belvedere	14	9	0	5	+4	27
4 Sevenoaks Town	14	7	3	4	+6	24
5 Beckenham Town	13	7	1	5	+9	22
6 Greenwich Borough	14	6	3	5	0	21
7 Hythe Town	11	5	4	2	+16	19
8 Tunbridge Wells	15	4	7	4	0	19
9 Erith Town	11	5	3	3	+7	18
10 Sporting Bengal	14	5	3	6	-10	18
11 Deal Town	12	4	4	4	-4	16
12 Norton Sports	12	4	1	7	-5	13
13 Holmesdale	14	4	1	9	-6	13
14 Fisher	16	3	3	10	-18	12
15 Corinthian	13	2	3	8	-15	9
16 Lordswood	11	0	3	8	-21	3

FIXTURES (Saturday): Ryman South: Sittingbourne v Chipstead; Kent League Premier Division: Beckenham Town v Norton Sports; Kent Senior Trophy quarter-final: Faversham Town v Hollands & Blair



EXPANSION: Sheppey Sunday League will introduce a comprehensive youth structure next season for the first time

Island youth league created

THE Sheppey Sunday League is planning to introduce a comprehensive youth structure next season for the first time in its 44-year history.

With no provision for youth football, players must travel to Maidstone, Medway or Faversham to compete. But from next season the Sheppey Sunday League are hoping to set up at least two divisions for under-nines through to under-18s, plus non-competitive football for under-sevens and eights.

Following a feasibility study into the plans, Mark Rogers, league secretary, believes the new system will strengthen the existing set-up on the Island without weakening neighbouring youth leagues.

He said: "It is not our intention to take clubs from other leagues which may be detrimental to their competitions, but to give local clubs a wider choice of where to play their football. We see this as a great opportunity

SUNDAY LEAGUE

to offer clubs the chance to make the transition from youth into adult football as part of the Sheppey Sunday League, thus safeguarding the future of grassroots football in the area."

It is hoped the junior leagues will emulate the adult set-up, which is in good health. It has been helped by a scheme to attract referees, who are refunded their training fees after officiating ten games, which means there is 100 per cent coverage this season.

The league will be holding an open meeting to unveil the plans and give clubs a chance to sign up at the Conservative Club in Sheerness on Wednesday, February 3 from 7.30pm.

Anyone planning to attend is advised to contact Mark Rogers by e-mail on marklisarogers@aol.com or on 07554 795119.

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